THE SPARTANA

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Students use individual computers in class

1:1 computing system enables students to type notes, search Internet during school day

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Students in English teacher Holly Wenning's classroom use computers on a consistent basis to enhance the student-driven learning experience.

By Hamna Qureshi
Writer

The start of the 2012-2013 school year has brought with it a significant change at Homestead. This change, the 1:1 computing system, has had mixed reviews from students. Some students are still deciding whether or not they like the new learning arrangement.

"I think it's beneficial to an extent," Alexandra Bush (12) said, "It's more interactive and more fun, but it is also distracting."

Even though the administration has blocked many recreational websites, students are still finding ways to work around the restrictions and use their laptops for more than just classroom assignments. Some students, though, do not even use their laptops for educational purposes.

"I feel like it's a useless waste of money," Gavin Lovvorn (11) said. "I've been on it four times."

Integrating the new technology into coursework and daily activities is going to take some time.

"The school is not prepared for the problems," Bush said, referring to the technological issues which have been an ongoing problem as students and staff get acclimated to the new system.

"Sometimes you run into problems when using [the laptop] and you need to do work," Hira Munir (9) said.

Munir came to Homestead from Woodside, where the one-to-one computing system was already in use during the 2011-2012 school year. Summit had also incorporated this system last year.

"I like that we don't have to carry around all our books," Munir said. "It's different from middle school because we get to take it home."

Taking the laptops home is an aspect of the program which is new to the district, as the middle school students cannot not take their laptops outside of school.

Bringing the laptops home gives students access to resources, programs and software that they need to do their homework and projects. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, as well as a variety of other programs, are already available on the laptops, which means that students can no longer give excuses about not having the ability to do their homework due to lack of technology outside of school.

These programs are helping students in their classes as well.

"It's helpful for note taking," Alex

▶ SEE 'COMPUTERS,' PAGE 2

THE NEED TO MAKE A COMPLETE TRANSITION

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Principal Smith leaves for position at Zimmer Institute

By Tori Barnard
Executive Editor

Longtime principal Rick Smith recently made the move to the Zimmer Institute, prompting the school board to select former assistant principal Steve Lake as interim principal.

Over the past few years, Smith had been in talks with the company about a possible position, and this summer when offered a position, he took the jump into the private sector.

"I started looking at what interests I might have at this point in my career," Smith said. "The reason I made the change was that I was just looking for options for myself in a different area, a change of perspective."

Smith's transition from school administrator to his new position as the Learning and Development Manager for Zimmer Institute should be relatively smooth because he will be participating in similar types of work.

Zimmer Institute, a facet of Zimmer Holding, Inc., deals with the education of the production of medical devices.

"[The Zimmer Institute] values education and believes it is a critical piece in its business," Smith said. "I like the hands-on part and that they're building a product to help people."

Although Smith looks forward to the next step in his career, there are many aspects he will miss about being a school administrator.

▶ SEE 'PRINCIPAL,' PAGE 2

PRINCIPAL SMITH'S TENURE

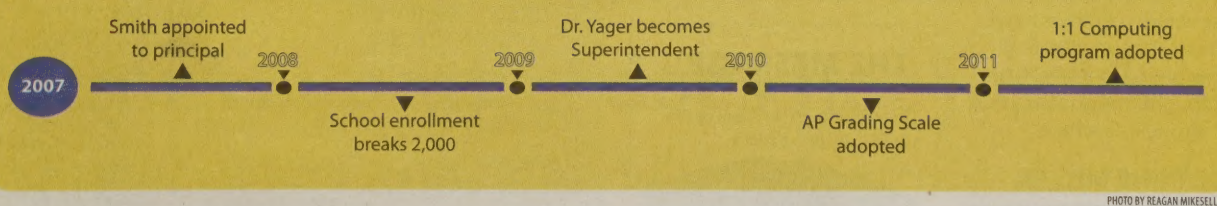


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Late arrival of passes creates chaos in lots

Underclassmen crowd dangerous senior lot

By Darby Cook
Writer

Every student who drove to school on the first day did so without the usually required documentation of an official HHS parking pass. This lack of paperwork created confusion and serious problems as students took advantage of the administration's blunder. Numerous juniors parked in the senior lot, blatantly disobeying Homestead's parking lot rules.

"The company the school uses to make the passes was late in getting them to the school," Resource Officer Ingrid Herriott said.

For the most part, seniors were not angry about the fact that it took so long to get their passes, but that the juniors seized the opportunity to park in the senior lot.

"I was worried I would forget to pick up the pass," Allison Blake (12) said, "but I wasn't frustrated or angry about the delay ... On Wednesday and Thursday, I parked in the same spot. When I came to school on Friday, my spot was taken by a junior. That made me angry, because you have to earn the right to park in the senior lot."

Juniors parking in the senior lot have always been a problem, but the predicament appeared to worsen for the first three days of school since the administration was not checking the parking lot.

However, juniors often believe the contrary, complaining that the parking system would be more simplistic if parking was conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. Seniors counter that the senior lot is a tradition.

▶ SEE 'PARKING LOT,' PAGE 2

Student Government forestalled by lack of adviser

Volunteers fulfill responsibilities, tasks previously held by members of student organization

Megan Cater
Writer

Last year's Student Government adviser Jeanine Miller has stepped down from the adviser position for the upcoming school year. In order to further her education, Miller resigned from her position as adviser. Because of the demanding tasks of Student Government adviser, her plan for this year is to have two advisers that share the position. There are a few staff members interested in becoming a new adviser, but they have not yet been approved by administration. The upcoming school year is expected to run smoothly with the new advisers.

"The interested candidates for the position would share the responsibility as co-advisers," Miller said. "It will be up to the new advisers to determine how Student Government will run this year and how they will manage different events throughout the school."

Student Government organizes many of the student activities throughout the school. Dances, charities and recycling are few of the many tasks Student Government members coordinate. The Homecoming game and Homecoming Dance will be on Friday, Oct. 5 this year. Leading up to Homecoming Night is a week filled with special dress up days. Senior Student Government members are in charge of coordinating and planning Homecoming Week and the Homecoming Dance. A senior boy and girl will also be crowned King and Queen at the Homecoming Game. The theme for Homecoming has not yet been decided. All of this current indecision sheds

▶ SEE 'GOVERNMENT,' PAGE 2

HOW THE STUDENT SPIRIT SURVIVES

Brian Hanford (12) decided to orchestrate the sale of student section t-shirts, a process typically executed by student government. Hanford allowed the students to vote for their favorite designs, and they picked the design contributed by Molly Ray (12). Hanford sold over 300 t-shirts, which cover the fans at football and soccer games in blue.

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

BRIEFS

FALL PLAY AUDITIONS
Auditions for the fall play will be held Tuesday, Sept. 11 and Wednesday Sept. 12 in the Auditorium. This year's fall play is "The Diary of Anne Frank." Students wishing to audition do not need to sign up. Auditions will start at promptly 3:00 and should last no longer than 5:30. Callbacks will be posted the morning of Thursday, Sept. 13 and will take place Thursday afternoon. The final cast will be posted Friday, Sept. 14. Scripts can be picked up in Mrs. Malooley's room, 416.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
Seniors that are interested in attending Indiana University can pick up applications for the IU Wells Scholarship program. The scholarship offers a housing allowance, along with full paid tuition and a four-year summer internship. All applications must be turned in by Sept. 17 and can be found in the Student Services office.

HOME FOOTBALL GAME
Today the Varsity football game will be held at home against East Noble. The game begins at 7:00, and the theme for the game is camouflage. All students are encouraged to join the student section in their camouflage and cheer on the Spartans.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES
Representatives from the following colleges will be visiting Homestead on Wednesday, Sept. 5; Ball State, Purdue University, Hanover College and Vanderbilt University. Juniors and seniors can sign up for the meeting in Student Services at least one day prior to the meeting.

▶ PRINCIPAL CONTINUED FROM 1

Having personally brought in approximately one-third of the staff over the past five years, Smith feels responsible for them.

"It's hard leaving because I have close ties to the staff," Smith said. "It's a difficult process to leave essentially your family."

Although disappointed by the loss of Smith, the central administration was not surprised by the Zimmer Institute's offer.

"We would've loved for him to stay, but we feel really encouraged knowing that we are preparing employees for advancement in their careers," Superintendent Dr. Steve Yager said.

Smith's last official day was Aug. 10, leaving little time for Yager to find and the school board to approve a replacement. The day before registration, the school board approved the selection of Lake as interim principal.

"We decided to look internally because there were a lot of great leaders in the district," Yager said. "Anyone would tell you, Steve Lake would do anything for Homestead High School."

Lake, a Homestead graduate, was an obvious choice to teachers and staff.

"I thought he was the logical choice because of his experience at Homestead," government teacher Keith Potter said.

With short time period prior to the beginning of the school year and the implementation of the 1:1 computing program, a smooth transition seemed like a daunting task.

"Everyone picked up the slack to get things ready for the school year," Lake said. "It was a little overwhelming, but exciting."

> "We decided to look internally because there were a lot of great leaders in the district. Anyone would tell you, Steve Lake would do anything for Homestead High School."
>
> **DR. STEVE YAGER**
> *SACS Superintendent*

Although there have been no drastic changes made, the presence of the administration throughout the school is much more prevalent, whether it be in the hallways between classes or in classrooms.

"I want kids to know me," Lake said. "I want students to feel like they can approach me."

In addition to Lake's advancement, former economics teacher Susan Summers has taken on his former role as assistant principal and has been a vital part in the changing dynamics of the school.

"Mrs. Summers has kept us up to date," Potter said. "Students have adapted really well."

For now, the Yager plans on watching how things unfold this year and looking into who will hold the permanent position as principal during second semester.

"I have a great deal of confidence in [Lake's] leadership," Yager said. "We appreciate the support of the community, the school board, teachers and staff."

Lake has found success so far this year with a relatively smooth transition in administration leadership. He plans on applying for the official position as principal when Yager and the school board resume the search.

"I'm not sure what they're looking for, but I just want what's best for the school," Lake said. "If they find what they're looking for is not me, I'm all right with that."

Whether he is selected to stay on as principal next year or not, no one can deny Lake's passion for Homestead.

"I went to high school here, I graduated here and I'd like to retire here," Lake said. "I bleed blue and gold."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The old school desktops were thrown away.
Status: False.

The arrival of the new student laptops has left numerous computer labs empty and curious minds wondering. The question remains, what has become of the old desktops that once occupied the now vacant space?

While rumors have circulated that the computers were simply thrown in the dumpster, they were actually disposed of in a more Earth-friendly manner.

The computers, along with other unnecessary technological devices, were properly deposited in a computer recycling plant in Louisville, Ky.

The company, Commonwealth Computer Recycling, has been used by the SACS district in previous situations when technology needed to be properly disposed of. Once delivered to the company, the computers were stripped and all materials were recycled.

"[Commonwealth Computer Recycling] goes through the computers and breaks them down," Don Chase, SACS Director of Technology, said. "They recycle the copper cabling, any gold, plastic; just about 100% [of the machines] get recycled."

According the to district's technology department, roughly 480 PCs, 381 CRT monitors and 35 printers were sent to Kentucky in order to be properly discarded.

The only computers that were not recycled were those located in the IMC and several other labs across the school which were kept running for specific software purposes.

Despite the varied opinions on the new student 1:1 computer learning program, it looks as though the desktops are officially gone and the laptops are here to stay.

–Priscilla Lin

▶ PARKING LOT CONTINUED FROM 1

"I think the junior and senior lots should be combined because I don't think what grade you're in matters," Caroline Weigand (11) said. "Actually, it's kind of unfair for the juniors to have to park so far away."

It appears that what grade students are in correlates directly with their opinion of how the parking lots should be designated per grade. Each year juniors complain about their parking lot, and each year nothing changes.

"I think changes to the parking system are inevitable, and that eventually parking will be done in a first-come, first-served kind of basis," Weigand said. "That's how it should be done."

Thus far the administration has kept the senior and junior lots separated, but there has been much talk among teachers and students about the parking situation. The truancy of the parking passes has only highlighted the downfalls of Homestead's current parking policy.

PHOTO BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Students line-up after school to exit the congested parking lot. The intersections at nearby stop lights are notorious for moving painstakingly slow. Underclassmen that have been able to park in the senior lot in the absense of passes have contributed greatly to this traffic.

▶ COMPUTERS CONTINUED FROM 1

Johnson (12) said.

Even with the added bonus of easy note taking, however, some students still are not won over by this new system.

"I think it's a great idea," Rutva Shah (11) said, "but so far there has not been much implemented ... into our daily work."

Not all students are on board with the 1:1 computing system, but the administration and teachers remain optimistic about the laptops' future.

"It's like going to college," Principal Steve Lake said.

Lake did have one concern about the laptops, though.

"My biggest concern is the responsibility of the kids...When I go to classrooms, I can see a few students gaming," Lake said. "They'll find out soon that they are only hurting themselves."

Even with his concern for students' responsibility, he is optimistic about the freshman class because they have already had experience with this system and know how to use their laptops to get work done.

"I'm excited to see [the freshmen] go 'I'm ready to go,'" Lake said.

Freshman math teacher Katie Metz has said that so far the 1:1 computing system has not changed her classroom activities too much, but adds that there is a great potential for the individual computers to change the learning experience in the classroom.

New staff addresses responsibilities

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

The Spartana has served as a voice of the students for over 30 years, and the 2012-13 staff hopes to live up to the legacy of past years. The publication is entirely student led; staff members are responsible for the writing, editing and designing processes. The students strive to use their talents to make a difference within the school.

This year, Joe Laughlin (12) will replace Joseph Janizek ('12) and Mary Distler ('12) as the Editor-In-Chief. He is prepared to put in all the time and effort it takes to make the Spartana great.

"We aim to make the Spartana a voice of the students again," Laughlin said. "Our staff is highly motivated to produce quality work with consistency."

Just below Laughlin, Laura Zweig (12) and Tori Barnard (12) will serve as Executive Editors. These two staff members will oversee all content of the paper before publication. Barnard will also concentrate on design, while Zweig will use her writing expertise to improve the overall quality of grammar and style.

"Spartana is more than an extracurricular," Barnard said. "It's a lifestyle."

Zweig said that she is equally excited for this year. She has been on staff for four years, making her the most experienced student on staff.

"It's nice to make the jump from being a follower to being a leader," Zweig said. "I look forward to this year and passing on the Spartana legacy to a new generation of Spartana writers."

The Spartana is one of the only places in Homestead where students can make a difference, and the staff understands and accepts this responsibility wholeheartedly.

CONTINUED FROM 1

light on the question of whether Homecoming Week will be an underwhelming morass without the proper organization normally required

"The senior members have already begun planning Homecoming, but they have not brought their ideas to the group as a whole," Miller said. "We haven't even had a meeting yet, and they are already getting some ideas."

Furthermore, student leadership has also given thought to other goals to be achieved in the coming year.

"My goals is to get the junior class more involved in charity work. I want the junior class to do things that no other class has done before," Junior Class President Dashaen Jordan (11) said. "Also, I think the entire junior Student Government staff wants to plan an outstanding prom this year."

Members of the general student body have begun to personalize certain things that would be otherwise handled by Student Government, such as creating student section t-shirts. Senior students came up with the idea of selling student section shirts so that all students can now buy them and wear them to sporting events.

"We want the shirts for all sports, but they are currently for football. We want everyone to buy one and attend the games so we look uniform and more threatening," Brian Hanford (12) said.

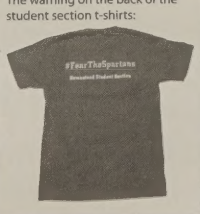
> "The senior members have already begun planning Homecoming, but they have not brought their ideas to the group as a whole."
>
> **JEANINE MILLER**
> *Former Student Government Adviser*

The upcoming year will be a transition into new authorities in Student Government, but the overall experience of school activities should remain the same.

"If the advisers are not approved within the next week," Miller said, "I will support the group in morning and Friday meetings when my schedule allows."

THE MESSAGE

The warning on the back of the student section t-shirts:



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(This worked.)

ADVERTISE WITH US:

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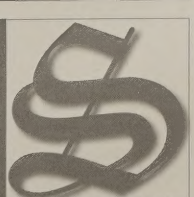

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

PHOTO FROM CURRENTGROUND.COM

LEFT AND WRITE: Paul Ryan selected as vice-presidential nominee

Romney has no chance with Ryan on ticket

By Colton Shaffer
Business Manager

Mitt Romney lost his bid for president the second he added staunch social and fiscal conservative Paul Ryan to his ticket. Ryan's extreme views on abortion, civil rights and the economy have done little to win him swing votes and have successfully made all but the most heavily conservative of voters wary. For Romney, the prognosis isn't good.

For starters, Ryan's clear mistrust of the mental capacity of women probably won't garner him votes. Ryan is unwaveringly pro-life, admittedly, a position not itself the kiss of death, however, he firmly believes in outlawing all abortions, including those resulting from rape and incest. This belief, coupled with his fervent desire to severely limit birth control (he voted to ban federal funding to Planned Parenthood, an organization designed to prevent pregnancies and educate parents), should be proof enough of his hypocrisy. Despite his supposed distaste for big government, Ryan supports the government's interference in one of the most intimate decisions of a woman's personal life. Add on Ryan's desire to include fertilized eggs under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and he forever marks himself as hopelessly foolish and misguided.

To put it bluntly, Ryan's views on civil rights are just as backward as his views on abortion. Initially, Ryan appears to be somewhat open-minded, with past support of legislation that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace. However, before he receives too much applause, this generous act needs some perspective. Ryan has again and again voted to ban other civil rights given to the LGBT community: marriage, the adoption of children and the ability to safely go about their daily lives, voting against enforcing legislation on anti-gay hate crimes. The impression is this: the American citizens who also happen to be members of the LGBT community are equal enough to contribute to society and pay taxes but aren't equal enough to deserve the legal equality needed to build a family and live in safety. This sort of pigheaded condescension is, quite plainly, disgusting and puritanical.

Unfortunately, Ryan's domestic and foreign policies are sufficiently ludicrous to match his stance on hotly-debated social issues. While his aim of cutting the national debt is a good one, since the current national debt of $14 trillion is rapidly approaching the US gross domestic product of $14.7 trillion, he plans to do so by slashing funding for domestic services like public education by more than 50 percent, and by implementing $4.5 trillion in tax cuts that will mainly affect the wealthiest of Americans, to the tune of a $250,000 tax cut over $1 million per year, according to economist Peter Orszag. To Ryan, funding a war that costs trillions of dollars is more important than education, health care and the middle class.

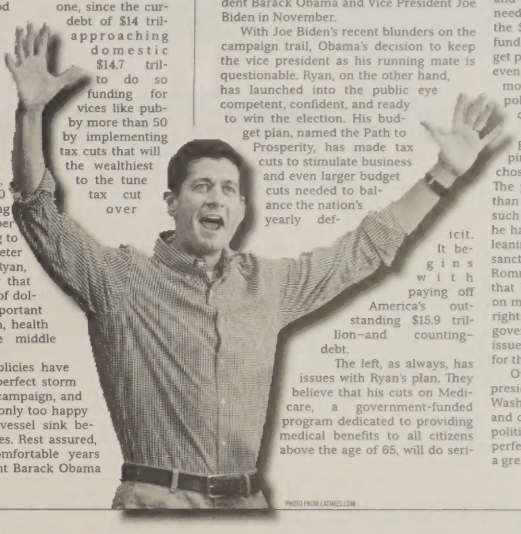

PHOTO FROM LATIMES.COM

Ryan's policies have provided the perfect storm for Romney's campaign, and voters will be only too happy to watch his vessel sink beneath the waves. Rest assured, four more comfortable years under President Barack Obama are ahead.

Ryan the key to Romney's success with voters

By Devin Wright
Writer

Election time is coming fast. With less than three months remaining, the presidential candidates and their running mates have to get their message across quickly and clearly. To do that, GOP candidate Mitt Romney has chosen Representative Paul Ryan as his running mate. They will be facing off against Democrat incumbents President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in November.

With Joe Biden's recent blunders on the campaign trail, Obama's decision to keep the vice president as his running mate is questionable. Ryan, on the other hand, has launched into the public eye competent, confident, and ready to win the election. His budget plan, named the Path to Prosperity, has made tax cuts to stimulate business and even larger budget cuts needed to balance the nation's yearly deficit. It begins with paying off America's outstanding $15.9 trillion–and counting–debt.

The left, as always, has issues with Ryan's plan. They believe that his cuts on Medicare, a government-funded program dedicated to providing medical benefits to all citizens above the age of 65, will do serious harm to senior citizens. But they ignore the fact that Obama's health care plan took $718 billion out of the Medicare fund to fund itself. Although his plan does remove much of the money from the Medicare budget, anybody over the age of 55 will not be affected by this plan. Only those who won't be dependent on Medicare for 10 or more years will have diminished benefits. This provision gives time for those citizens to come up with alternative plans for their future and still provides for those who currently need it. Especially when compared against the $718 billion taken out of Medicare to fund Obama's health care plan, Ryan's budget plan is harmless to senior citizens. Ryan even made the point of bringing his own mother, a dependent on Medicare, to the political scene to show his great love and care for that generation.

Ryan has provided an excellent budget plan to attract all interested in stopping the nation's deficit, but Mitt Romney chose him for more than his fiscal policy. The presidential candidate has had a less than perfect record as far as social issues, such as abortion and gay rights. Because he has a maintained a strong conservative leaning, Ryan's perfect pro-life and pro-sanctity-of-marriage records will help Mitt Romney secure any conservative votes that he has left out. Ryan's unique stance on marriage can even potentially gain gay-rights activists' votes. He believes that the government shouldn't even be involved the issue, but that the people should decide it for themselves from church to church.

Overall, Ryan is a strong choice for vice president. He brings bright, fresh ideas to Washington and has retained his integrity and devout Catholic faith through years of political experience. Mitt Romney made the perfect choice for vice president and stands a great chance of winning the big race.

School to miss Smith, welcomes Lake as new principal

To lose an educator is to lose an essential cog in the machine, and to lose an administrator can leave a school defenseless. With an increasing number of educators considering jobs in the private sector and fewer people entering the field, perhaps it's time to reconsider how educators are compensated in order to stall the decline in interest in the profession and to attract the best-qualified individuals.

School administrators have some of the hardest jobs in the world. They must deal with situations every day that would send the average nine-to-fiver running in the opposite direction, but on top of all the on-the-job difficulties, state legislatures have seen fit to remove some of the money destined for education from the state budget.

Nowhere is it written that a state's infrastructure is more important than its education, and Indiana politicians must stop assuming so. Money destined to better educational institutions statewide should be last on the redistribution block when reducing the deficit or balancing the budget.

State legislators may propose education reforms that partially base teachers' salaries on how well their students do on tests, but these reforms do not solve the problem public schools face. The state's–indeed, even the nation's–biggest problem is that experienced teachers are drastically underpaid. When it comes to education, no expense should be spared, and if that means readjusting the budget, then so be it.

How can the United States as a whole hope to compete with the rising stars of Asian countries if state budgets are starved for education funds? There cannot be simply enough for a school to operate at its basest levels, there must be enough money for schools to employ teachers and school administrators who are experienced enough to engage students while at the same time providing a safe and enriching learning environment.

If America wants to once again be the world leader in education, it must start at the state level. Forcing students to go to school longer is not the answer, because there is no guarantee that they will be taught the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed later in life. Giving schools the money to hire the most qualified teachers and pay those teachers better wages is the answer, for it is not the length of time students will spend staring blankly at a chalkboard that will make the difference, but the length of time students will spend engaged in the lesson.

It is understandable that school administrators will eventually seek jobs that offer significantly higher salaries, no matter how fulfilling they feel their job is. But on that note, Mr. Steve Lake deserves the sincere congratulations and gratitude of the staff for stepping up and shouldering the onerous responsibilities that come with being principal, especially for taking on the challenges of 1:1 Technology.

The Ed Board

Joe Laughlin, Laura Zweig, Darri Castonzo, Tori Barnard, Clair Pranger, Ryan Boylan

{The Bottom Line} *The root problem is that education funds for schools in Indiana are taking a back seat to savings, and it is causing educators to look elsewhere.*

Aurora shooting does not justify gun control

The right to bear arms should not be infringed based off of one incident

By Sophia Brown
Writer

The constitutional right to bear arms is now being called into question due to the recent shooting in Aurora, Colorado. During the midnight premiere of "The Dark Knight Rises," 24-year-old James Holmes rose from the crowd in nothing but body armor. After hurling a gas canister into the crowd, he used an assault rifle and shotgun to fire numerous shots into the audience, killing 12 people and wounding 59 others, including children, in one of the deadliest mass shootings in recent U.S. history.

This incident struck the world with fear, raising the question if the right to bear arms should be restricted, if not abolished. While guns may cause many dangers, the actions of one human who may not be mentally stable should not take away the right of all other Americans. Holmes' case is not singular: hundreds of other incidents like bank robberies, homicides and rapes occur around the country.

It is understandable why American citizens have reacted so strongly to this incident. Because Holmes so easily shattered the relative safety of movie theaters, millions of people have begun to question whether or not guns should be available so easily. This incident alone does not, however, provide enough reason to take away the feeling of protection guns provide; additionally, many Americans use guns for the sport of hunting. Taking away the constitutional privilege of being able to own guns would make more Americans worry for their safety rather than for the rare tragedies that have happened in the past years.

The process of deciding who should be granted ownership of guns would be extremely controversial. By the time all the kinks are worked in trying to establish the stricter laws on gun control, peoples' opinions might change. If guns were abolished entirely, the number of protests and arguments to reinstate the right to bear arms would far outweigh the outrage at one madman's rampage. It would bring up more problems, especially in heavily populated pro-gun areas.

> "While guns may cause many dangers, the actions of one human who may not be mentally stable should not take away the right of all other Americans."
>
> **SOPHIA BROWN**

The future problems that would be caused are not worth the attempt to prevent situations that in reality cannot be prevented. The attempt to get guns in the future if they are made illegal will turn into the situation that is going on right now with drug trafficking. Psychotic and irrational people who want to inflict harm with guns will get their hands on them, no matter what the cost or legality of the action. If peoples' intentions are to kill people with guns, it is obvious that they are not concerned about the legal aspect. It is not guns that kill, it's people.

PHOTO FROM PBS.ORG

On July 20 at the midnight premiere of "The Dark Knight Rises" in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, Aurora, Colorado, a gunman dressed from head to toe in military gear entered through an exit door and proceeded to begin open firing upon a theater full of movie goers, killing 12 people and injuring 58 others. Following the shooting, the suspect James Holmes, was apprehended in the parking lot adjacent to the theater. In the aftermath of this tragic incident, many debate whether gun control laws would have prevented this shooting. Many also questioned the safety of public places such as movie theaters.

PHOTO FROM FLICKR

Teachers recount historical expedition across Europe

Lily Endowment funds Christophersen, Reitdorf to track spread of Black Plague

By William Ngo
Writer

During the medieval time, the Black Plague pandemic crossed Asia and Europe, killing millions of people. This summer, English teacher Connie Christophersen and science teacher Deb Rietdorf traveled through Europe tracing the disease's path of death.

While the adventure was a trip of recreation, it was also one of privilege. Their trip was made possible by the Lilly Endowment foundation, an Indianapolis based organization that funds religious, educational, or community enhancement expeditions. Christophersen and Rietdorf were each awarded an $8,000 grant to pursue a project that would enrich their knowledge and teaching methods.

The two educators envisioned an overseas trip where they would shadow the Plague and the sites it affected; the Lily Endowment allowed their fantasy to become reality.

"[Lily Endowment] allows teachers to create their own experience," Christophersen said. "Most grants are much more restrictive."

One significant location that the instructors visited was St. Mary's Church in England. The house of worship is still a vital illustration of the plague's existence. Those who lived during that age carved passages into the building's columns, which still remain today. Some engravings expressed fear, explaining the horrible effects of the sickness, while others conversely claimed that the illness was a punishment from wrathful gods.

The teachers were also able to visit museums to learn about long-forgotten medical treatments, including blood-letting and a number of unusual tools. One peculiar instrument was used to drill into skulls, which allowed doctors a method of examining their patients. The museum also obtained sources that document how the Plague is connected to the HIV virus.

"When I teach about past medical practices in class, I'm going to be able to incorporate the things I learned," Rietdorf said.

Additionally, Christophersen and Rietdorf walked into a limestone cave near Naples, Italy, which turned out to be a graveyard. The remains of those who had died from the Plague had been stacked and laid against walls, with name plagues placed beside the bones. The cave was physically constructed to be shaped in the symbol of a cross.

"We [were] walking on bones," Rietdorf said.

The travelers spent a total of three weeks in Europe, traveling by boat, motor vehicle, and train. Rietdorf said that she regrets agreeing to drive on foreign streets as the transportation system contrasted greatly from American standards and travel.

> "When I teach about past medical practices in class, I'm going to be able to incorporate the things I learned."
>
> **DEB RIETDORF**
> *Anatomy Teacher*

Christophersen and Rietdorf were not only challenged by foreign transportation, but also by the difficult accessibility to several locations. For instance, a cemetery located past lesser known streets made it more difficult to locate and access. Streets were additionally filled with loiterers, mafia members, non-English speaking natives and tattered clotheslines, adding further complexion to their trek.

In spite of any tribulations they encountered, the once in a lifetime opportunity became more than a mere vacation. The instructors' European voyage allowed them an opportunity to do what they love, in an extraordinary locality.

"It was a great trip," Christophersen said. "I don't think I'd change a thing."

During the experience, Rietdorf and Christophersen grasped new ideas that they will utilize in the classroom, to make their instruction and the students' learning experience more dynamic. Their students will now be able to hear their teachers' firsthand account – that will add more depth to what they are learning.

Hanita Epstein (12) said that she found her teachers' journey fascinating and inspiring. "Teachers that truly love what they do and keep on learning are what builds Homestead's character," Epstein said.

MEET the PAINTERS

Leaders of the student section cheer Spartans to victory

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

Every football game the student section's hooting and hollering is spearheaded by a set of blue and yellow spangled students: the painters. Favoring body paint over pompoms, these select students motivate the crowd with their high-energy antics and unwavering school spirit. While no one seems to know its origins, this longstanding Homestead tradition highlights the bonds formed among students. The titles of Head Painters has been passed down from year to year and bestowed upon a new crop of seniors. This year's honorees are Brian Hanford (12), Joe Laughlin (12), Lauren Narramore (12) and Molly Ray (12).

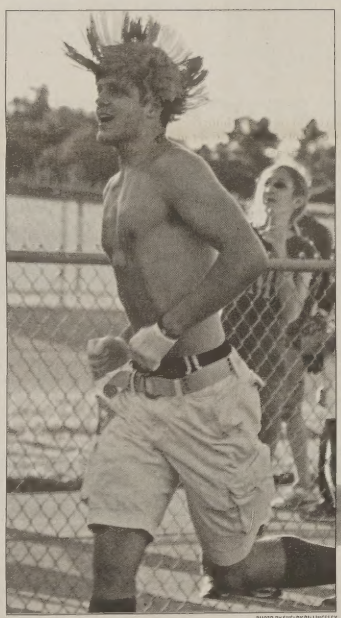
PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Widely regarded as a senior privilege, the painters assemble before each game to paint their chests, tailgate and pump themselves up before the excitement ensues. The Spartana sat down with a few of this year's painters to try to get in the mindset of Homestead's loudest football fans.

Brian Hanford (12)

The Spartana: What are your responsibilities?

Brian Hanford: Well Joe and I have started a student section Facebook group to try and have everyone be informed on what will be coming in the near future (i.e. games, themes, carpooling) and to get everyone together to participate no matter what age or grade. We also sold over 300 shirts for students to wear at games to impose a more threatening, uniform look as a student section. We must create chants and try to keep everyone involved. The hardest part is getting everyone to participate when there is only a short period of time to get things organized. And of course we must stay fit so we can do all of the push-ups that we do.

TS: What's your training regimen then?

BH: The entire paint crew did not have time to work out together, so I just encouraged people to do push-ups on their own time.

TS: What are you most looking forward to?

BH: Helping out the team to an undefeated season! The most dedicated students never miss a game, home or away. And we are happy to take any willing students with us to the away games!

Molly Ray (12)

The Spartana: How did you get involved?

Molly Ray: Since I decided not to do cheerleading this year, I was really excited to be a part of the student section for once. No girls had taken charge yet, so I was asked to help out. It just sort of went from there.

TS: How does painting differ from cheerleading?

MR: The purpose of cheerleading is to excite and get the crowd involved whereas painting is more to pump up the players.

TS: What's your opinion of the girls not being allowed to wear sports bras this year?

MR: I think it's a good thing. Although many girls were upset with this rule that the administration has been trying to enforce for a few years, not wearing sports bras has given girls the opportunity to paint who would not have otherwise, including me.

Lauren Narramore (12)

The Spartana: What do you know about the history of painters at Homestead?

Lauren Narramore: I know it's a huge part of Homestead's student section for football. Even when I was little, I always looked forward to coming to the games just to see all of the energy and school spirit the upperclassmen had, and I couldn't wait until I was finally able to be a part of it. Being able to paint makes football games so much more enjoyable and seeing everyone in our grade come together is definitely a plus.

TS: What effect do you think the painters have on school spirit?

LN: It really depends on the people who come out and support the guys. The more people there are, the more hyped up the environment is. Being the seniors, we lead the chants and cheers, and we try to get everyone else to feel the same excitement that we have. It just helps you realize the actual fun you can have at a football game. You only get four years, and it goes by so fast. You have to make it worth your while.

TS: What's your favorite part so far?

LN: Tailgating definitely! Having everyone come together no matter what friend group they're in just to have fun is awesome. It's great to see everyone drop their problems just to have a good time. And it wouldn't be a tailgate without a delicious cookout.

Cameron Dark (12)

The Spartana: What are your responsibilities?

Cameron Dark: Mostly just to go crazy and keep the student section pumped while reminding everyone how many points we've scored with pushups.

TS: What effect would you say the painters have on school spirit?

CD: They're indispensable.

TS: What's your opinion on the girls not being allowed to wear sports bras this year?

CD: It is a total outrage and an insult to respectable women everywhere.

Seniors work at the application process

Senior students under pressure to finish college, scholarship applications online

By Colby Shoup
Writer

Students often consider senior year to be the easiest year of high school, but college-bound students spend hours of time and energy on essays and applications. College is, without a doubt, the most popular choice for graduating seniors, and students spend most of their senior year applying to schools and scholarship programs as they prepare to make the biggest decisions of their high school careers.

"Every college is different," guidance counselor Thomas Quigley said. "Some weigh the grades of their applicants more than their test scores. Some weigh the rigor of the student's high school curriculum on top. Some make test scores very important. It really depends on the school."

For Sarah Poorman (12), there were plenty of challenges that came with the application process.

"My biggest pet peeve is applications that are way too long," Poorman said. "I have also had my fair share of problems with online applications and essays."

Although the application process is stressful for seniors, none of them have to do it alone. The school offers a variety of programs meant to help seniors apply for scholarships and prepare for college life. Prominent examples of these programs include advisory, senior interviews, the guidance counselors and Nav101.

"Nav101 isn't the most exciting program, but it provides a lot of college information," Jonny Valdez (12) said.

Like almost everything else in modern society, the application process is getting more and more technological every day. There are now more ways to connect with colleges than ever before.

> "I think Homestead provides students with everything they need to excel, as long as they put forth the effort to work for it."
>
> **SARAH POORMAN (12)**
> *College Applicant*

"Everything is electronic now. There are very few snail mail applications," Quigley said. "With all of the advancements in technology, electronic applications are more sufficient."

Most would agree that this major change in the world of college applications is for the better. This is mainly because of the amount of applications that are now sent to colleges per year. Just last year, Indiana University received around 30,000 applications.

Students are taking advantage of the various digital application opportunities in many different ways. Using websites like Fastweb.com, students can gain access to millions of applications and scholarship opportunities instantly.

"Fastweb is a great website that organizes scholarships and puts them in one place and helps make them easy to apply for and keep track of. I applied for a bunch of random ones recently, just for the heck of it," Poorman said.

New technology makes applying for colleges easier than ever before, sometimes as easy as the click of a button. This year, the school has taken its technology use to a new level with the laptops, unintentionally making the college application process even easier.

"I think Homestead provides students with everything they need to excel, as long as they put forth the effort to work for it," Poorman said.

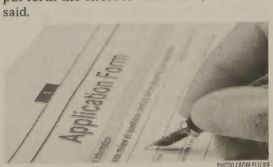

PHOTO FROM FLICKR

Cost of College

- **Ball State University: $18,050**
- **Butler University: $43,548**
- **DePauw University: $47,450**
- **Indiana State University: $17,142**
- **IPFW: $8,008**
- **IUPUI: $16,859**
- **Indiana University: $18,767**
- **Manchester University: $36,070**
- **Purdue University: $21,187**
- **University of Evansville: $39,946**
- **University of Indianapolis: $32,784**
- **University of Saint Francis: $30,936**

Summer job at ice cream shop teaches valuable life lessons

Summer is normally my favorite season, as I'm a big fan of sleeping, eating and not going to school. But this one was a bit of a struggle.

I started my first job this summer. Yes, I know that half the students at Homestead are currently employed, but for a 17-year-old tourist with no experience, motivation or car, it was not an easy task. After weeks of filling out forms, making calls and greatly exaggerating my abilities, a small ice cream shop near my lake house finally hired me.

I learned a lot working at that ice cream shop. There was no real training: on my first day, I walked in and was handed a scooper. That was my first lesson: scooping is harder than it looks. It took about three days for me to learn which flavors came easily and which ones I tried to talk customers out of purchasing.

Scooping turned out to be one of the easier jobs. I also worked the register, which was always breaking or charging customers $200 for a smoothie. The shake blender exploded if you removed the shake too early or too late. If you drained the water in the sink too quickly, the kitchen flooded. I lost several cones in the vat of chocolate coating, and I tripped on the dangerously narrow stairs on my second day and crushed 40 waffle cones.

Although the machinery often seemed to be against me, some customers were even harder to deal with. After my first few weeks, I'd identified several types of customers.

One of the more obnoxious types is the oversampler, who would ask to try anywhere from three flavors to every flavor. When I'd remind them of the two samples per customer rule, he'd pull the old, "Oh, well, my sister here would love to sample the Moose Trax too." Insert wink and/or knowing look.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

Being the intelligent person that I am, I was never fooled by these sneaky antics. I'd always hand the spoon to his less greedy sibling/girlfriend/relative, hoping she'd shove it down before the excessive sampler could get his hands on it. However, this only happened one time, and the sampler got angry and demanded another one. Working in the food industry really makes you question the decency of humanity.

Then there's the indecisive customer, who spends 15 minutes delivering a rambling monologue about the merits of ordering toffee, chocolate or mango. As an employee, you tell them to take all the time they need, as if he's picking his life partner instead of an ice cream flavor. After everyone else in his party has paid and finished half their cones, he'll ask you for your opinion. After you've suggested the mango over the chocolate, he'll nod, completely dismiss your suggestion and pick the other one. Problem solved.

There's the mother of the allergic child, who grills you about the nut, gluten and dairy content of every flavor before eventually picking vanilla.

There's the Chatty Cathy, who gets her ice cream and hangs around, trying to discuss everything from ice cream to weather to your current relationship status.

"Working in the food industry really makes you question the decency of humanity."
DANI CASTONZO

There's the average teenage boy, who orders five scoops of ice cream with every topping available and then asks for every female employee's number.

There's the average teenage girl, who orders half a scoop of sorbet and mentally plans to hit the gym again after.

What I'm saying is, there are a lot of strange people in the world. And they all love ice cream.

Although the customers were a little crazy and the machinery was questionable, the job wasn't all bad. On slow days, I just ate ice cream all day. I didn't have to work out anymore, because I got a solid workout scooping and lugging pounds of ice cream up the deadly stairs. I obtained lots of valuable skills, like how to talk a customer out of a lemon-marshmallow shake and where to throw the hamburgers when they caught on fire. Plus, I made minimum wage.

I guess it was a good experience overall. But next year, I'm applying at Office Depot instead.

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PHOTO BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Lunch Time Legislation

Government legislation calls for changes in lunch foods offered

BY KATE TROUTMAN
Writer

The dress code is stricter and each student has his or her own laptop, but the most talked about change in the school this year is the cafeteria food. A new national legislation caused many lunchroom classics to be altered or removed for the purpose of creating a healthier student body.

According to Southwest Allen Country Schools' Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jane Sheley, federal legislators voted the 2012 Childhood Hunger Free Act into law this past year, which is responsible for the changes in the cafeteria.

The goal of the Childhood Hunger Free Act is to provide adequate nutrition for children in public schools during lunch time. One out of three children in the United States is currently obese, according to the American Heart Federation, and the law also aims to fight the dangerously high obesity rate.

"Child nutrition is rapidly changing, but we are diligently working to implement and keep up with the new requirements and regulations for the benefit of our students," Sheley said.

Various food changes have occurred over the past few years as a result of these new laws. The cafeteria switched to 1% milk, added whole wheat products and, to the outrage of many students, made the switch to fat-free ranch dressing. However, this year was the most drastic change of all.

Many cafeteria staples such as the crinkle fries and banana cookies have been replaced with healthier food options or removed from the cafeteria menu altogether.

Students said that they miss the old items that were served at lunch in previous years.

"I miss the blueberry muffins on Mac and Cheese Mondays," Olivia Zimmerman (11) said.

Unfortunately, the blueberry muffins and crinkle fries will not be found in the lines next year, and there is a possibility of more cuts next year.

The Childhood Hunger Free Act strives to provide basic nutrition for children below poverty level. The goal of the act is for no child to go without healthy food. Parents cannot always provide nutrient-dense food for their children at home, so many students in poverty areas only get food from school lunches. The government will fund the program for schools who cannot afford to pay for nutritional food that meets the new requirements.

As a result of this goal, there will be an increased amount and variety of fruits and vegetables available for sale, decreased portion sizes, controlled amounts of fats, trans-fats, grains and full-fat dairy products.

If a student purchases a meal (this rule does not affect a la carte items), he/she is now required to take a fruit or vegetable along with the rest of the meal.

Many of the mandatory changes are already evident in the school cafeteria, such as the switch to 1% milk, the fat-free ranch dressing and whole wheat products.

All the mandatory changes from the Childhood Hunger Free Act have not been implemented quite yet. Besides the whole grains used in the sub buns, pizza crust and breading on chicken nuggets, there will be an increase in whole grains in other ways this school year. Next year, the government will require every bread product to be whole grain. Homestead will also be required to implement a minimum and maximum calorie, sodium and protein requirement.

These changes will create a healthier Homestead, but should the federal government be able to control what students eat in the lunch room? Many students disagree with forced requirements of the law.

"A student should have a choice as to what he or she eats at lunch," Zimmerman said.

Other students do not mind the changes as much because they understand the long-term benefits of the plan and the positive effects it will have on the overall health for children around the United States.

"Overall, I think the regulations will make Homestead a healthier place. I really want the old ranch back though," Scott Espich (12) said.

Even though the changes were not directly her choice, Sheley said she believes these changes will be beneficial and she looks forward to a healthier student body.

"Healthy eating is so important to a healthy lifestyle," Sheley said. "My hope is that all of these changes are well-received by the student body."

WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"I think the changes are good because people need to start losing weight and eating more healthily."
- Shadieva Walker (11)

"When regular lunch was taken away last year, it discouraged people from eating salads, which encouraged them to eat unhealthy foods."
-Katrina Miller (12)

PHOTOS BY ALISON MANSFIELD AND SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Music festivals strike a chord

Summer concerts allow students to hear favorite bands perform

BY ALEX EADY
Writer

Numerous students took time to attend some of the hottest concerts and music festivals this summer, including Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Warped Tour and Country Fest. These concerts attracted thousands of frequent concert-goers and first-timers alike.

Bonnaroo, a four-day event from June 7-10, was the first concert of the summer. In Manchester, Tenn. 700 acres of farmland were transformed into the total music experience. According to the official site of Bonnaroo 2012, this year's festival drew in a staggering 80,000 people to see over 150 performers. The Bonnaroo lineup was massive and included artists such as The Temper Trap, Skrillex, Mac Miller, fun., Bon Iver and GROUPLOVE.

Large concerts also provide sources of entertainment besides the music. At Bonnaroo, there were rows of food, special activity tents, a ferris wheel, a silent disco, meditation sessions and places to get pedicures. The variety of attendees also allows for people watching opportunities.

"One of the members of The Roots plays a tuba, a sousaphone. He jumped into the audience and was running around with the thing. It was fun to see, delightful," English teacher Jan Venderly said. "Folks wore some interesting apparel. One group of men was walking around in speedo swim trunks. Lots of folks had elaborately painted faces."

Lollapalooza is another popular music festival that takes place every August in Chicago. This year's festival was hosted in Grant Park from Aug. 3-5. Olivia Later (11) said she visited the festival for the first time this year with a friend from Chicago in hopes of seeing two of her favorite performance groups.

"I wanted to see the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Florence + the Machine. I'm a fan of their music," Later said.

A few other performers scheduled on the Lolla lineup included Passion Pit, Frank Ocean, The Black Keys and Childish Gambino.

Because of Lollapalooza's popularity, the ticket prices varied depending on the date of purchase, ranging anywhere from $75 to $300 for three days. Luckily, Later was able to buy a two-day concert pass for $90.

"It was my first time going to Lollapalooza, and I'm not usually a concert-goer," Later said. "There were just so many people there, and the whole experience was really cool."

Another popular music festival was the 2012 Country Fest in Fort Wayne. On Aug. 4, crowds of Hoosiers gathered in Headwaters Park to listen to musical performances by artists such as Lee Brice, Colt Ford and Montgomery General.

McKenna Brincefield (11) was a first-timer to the Country Fest this year and said that she initially did not know what to expect.

"It was my first time attending and I don't really like country music, but all the performers were actually really good," Brincefield said.

Country Fest's affordable tickets prices and all ages welcome policy made it a very popular summer music festival among all people. This year's ticket prices ranged from $17-25.

"I didn't stay for long. Actually, I left pretty early," Brincefield said, "I really liked how upbeat everything was."

Jacob Witte (12) attended The Vans Warped Tour in Noblesville, Ind. on July 10. This traveling music festival is known for its lineup of performers in the rock and alternative genre including New Found Glory, Senses Fail, All Time Low and Yellowcard.

"I paid $23 for pre-sale tickets, but originally they would've been around $45," Witte said.

Witte said that his favorite part of the concert was seeing All Time Low and Mayday Parade.

"The best part of going to [Warped Tour] was really just being able to see a half-dozen of my favorite bands live in just one day," Witte said.

BY THE NUMBERS

270k	Attendees at Lollapalooza
184	Acts at Bonnaroo
41	Dates scheduled for Warped Tour
17	Dollar admission at Country Fest

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

New sports program implemented for athletes

Recent concussion injuries spark need for measures to prevent athletic trauma

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

After recent controversy regarding head injuries and concussions, a program intended to ensure all athletes' safety has been developed. Every student taking part in a sport this school year is now required to look over an information sheet that advises students on what to do in the case of a concussion. The debate stems from past athletes undergoing such injuries caused by a blow or bump to the head. Parents and coaches have been growing concerned, as concussions are becoming more and more common.

"Our awareness has grown dramatically over the last ten years," Chad Zolman, head football coach, said. "There have been precautions in place way before the topic blew up. The players' safety has always been our number one priority. The concussion program gives us another tool to assess the health of an athlete and avoid bringing him back too soon."

Initially, the information sheet is given to athletes and has to be looked over and signed by a parent. It displays signs and symptoms of head injury such as a headache or "pressure" in the head, nausea, and blurred vision. Because these symptoms do not always detect a concussion, many athletes overlook them, which can cause permanent damage to the brain. The dangers of not seeking medical assistance can lead to further injuries and longer recovery time. The less concerned the athlete is over healing, the more likely it is for a repeat concussion.

Fortunately, the new program is a sense of injury prevention. "[To prevent injury, coaches are] teaching proper technique, paying attention to symptoms that may be due to a concussion, and being aware of our athletes," Zolman said.

Furthermore, the concussion program was put in place this year by the IHSAA in hopes of preventing serious and long lasting damage to the brain. This program is fairly similar to others in the area such as the Metro Football League and the Police Athletic League. Aside from the information sheet, the program instructs athletes to be cautious of concussion signs, and as of last year, all football players were required to take the ImPACT test. This test provides a baseline of the player's normal brain function; therefore after an injury, a doctor can distinguish the difference after the athlete has suffered a concussion.

In addition, the program is emphasizing the recovery process towards athletes even more so than usual. If there is any indication of head injury, athletes are advised to see a medical professional for help.

"When we suspect a concussion, the issue now is turned over to our trainers and medical personnel. We do not decide, as coaches, whether the athlete is allowed to participate anymore," Zolman said, "It is up to a trained professional to let us know when an athlete is healthy."

Several athletes in past years have suffered concussions, like football player, Kyle Mohsenzadeh (11). "I was out for no more than a week," Mohsenzadeh said. "As far as the rest of the season went, it didn't affect me too much. I was back into full contact quickly. I was a little more cautious with contact to the head, but nothing serious."

Though most of the injuries have not been fatal, coaches, parents and athletes will remain vigilant and keep in mind the signs of a concussion.

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIRESELL

Following three victories and one tie, soccer team focuses on weaknesses and plans

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

Beginning a season with a group filled with experienced, older players, the boys' soccer team is developing strategies and goals to highlight the team's talent as a whole.

Thus far, the team has played four games, the first one at the Shindigz National Soccer Festival at Hefner Stadium. Playing against Grand Ledge High School in Michigan, the boys came out victorious 1-0.

"We didn't allow the opponents to take a single shot the entire 80 minutes. However, I felt as though our movement on and off the ball was fairly sluggish and that we could have played a lot quicker," Chris Anderson (12) said. "Plus, we should [have] easily scored four or five more goals than we did."

Throughout the game, the team was in sync, aided by player Alex Kunce (11). After coming off to a slow start, Kunce was able to get an attack from outside back, resulting in posing himself as an offensive threat. Likewise, the offensive tempo began to pick up when David Rincon (10) and Nick Anderson (10) created numerous passing and scoring opportunities for each other. The team's defensive composure was a strong point, but the key area of improvement was getting the ball in the net, as opposed to attempting to play at the level of the opponent.

"Goals can do a lot to the opponent's mindset, and if we can get the job done sooner, then we can count them out from even thinking they can win the game," Anderson said.

After assessing strategic goals and weaknesses from the first game, the team has been able to win two more games against New Haven (7-0) and East Noble (4-2)

Next, the team traveled to Canterbury in a greatly anticipated rivalry game. A multitude of fans stood crowding around the small soccer stadium in support of the team. However, the game came to an undesirable conclusion with a tie of 1-1. David Rincon (10) scored the lone goal for the team. Though the game was back and forth until the end, the team had no trouble keeping their drive at an all-time high.

"We were all really pumped up, so staying motivated wasn't a problem," team captain Jack Hagedorn said. "We all wanted to win so bad, and I think we all showed that determination on the field."

In terms of strategy, their key goal was to be defensively solid and not allow the opposing team to score. Then, when an opportunity arose, they would focus solely on getting the ball in the net. As expected, the boys thrived defensively and managed to only give Canterbury a few chances at a goal. This was a major achievement, considering they are defending state champions.

"It's disappointing having to tie Canterbury, but it's a huge improvement from last year, which we lost 5-1. I was very pleased with the performance from the boys. We worked hard the entire game and it showed," Rashaan Stephens (12) said. "I know we put it all out on the field, and that's all I could have asked for from the team."

In addition to the hype of the Canterbury game, the team has plans to continue their success and improve in all areas as a team. With hopes of surpassing every team in the state, they are keeping a strong mind set.

"Our goal is to win state," Hagedorn said. "Anything less is a disappointment."

Seth Higginbotham (12), Michael Ducker (12), Tyler Fitt (12), and David Rincon (10) stand in a wall in an attempt to block an opponent's free kick in the game against Canterbury. The player miss hit the ball over the goal, and the team gained possession of the ball again with a goal kick.

Girls' cross country team dominates early competition

After finding success in first two meets, team strives to make an appearance at State

By Sydney Isroff
Writer

With an impressive start to the season, the Girls Cross Country team finished third at the Huntington North Invitational. With two meets behind them, the team is preparing for the Purdue Invitational looking to place well once again.

"We ran really strong in the first performance and then at the Huntington North Invitational finished third in a 15 team field." Head Coach Sara Wyss said.

Impressive performances at the Huntington North Invitational came from Grace Walther (9) placing tenth, Mariah Jordan (12) placing thirteenth, and Taylor Busch (11) placing twenty-fifth. Even though she is a freshman, Walther has stepped up and lead the team.

While Walther has proved well individually, all the athletes have benefited from a team-oriented atmosphere. The athletes attribute early success to running as a team, instead of separate individuals. The girls aim to build off the energy of one another to improve their performances in practices and competition.

"The team this year has a really great pack mentally that is helping us push each other both in practice and in races," Caroline Huller (11) said. "Because we can work off each other, we will be able to run closer times and score a lot higher at our upcoming meets."

"We have only had two meets, but everyone improved from the 1st to the 2nd." Jordan said.

In addition to training in a pack, this year's team encompasses several characteristics that distinguish it from last year's team. Most noticeably, the athletes are focused intently on success in the postseason. The team has already started to prepare for the state competition and is planning on qualifying. To reach the state meet, the team will have to excel in the postseason, earning top positions in the Sectional, Regional, and Semi-State competition.

"The main difference between this year's and last year's cross country seasons is that we have already started focusing on the state meet coming up in October." Huller said.

Their first meet, The Dekalb Invitational, was a perfect time to judge the team's fitness levels and give coaches an opportunity to get a glimpse of the team's strengths and weaknesses early on.

The impact of students from all classes also benefits this team. With older, experienced runners facilitating the development of younger runners, the entire team builds toward faster times.

"We have a nice mix of seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen that make up the core of the team," Coach Wyss said. "They have worked together all summer so we can have a successful fall." Finishing third at the Huntington North Invitational, the girls use this early success as motivation for their upcoming meets. The athletes aim to continue the expectation of dominance that they have established this early in the season.

"Looking forward, I'm really hoping to see improvement from every runner during the remainder of the season," Huller said. "Everyone works really hard during practice and it'd be great to see all of that work pay off and get some PRs [Personal Records] for the team."

> "Everyone works really hard during practice and it'd be great to see all of that work pay off and get some PRs [Personal Records] for the team."
>
> **CAROLINE HULLER (11)**
> *Runner*

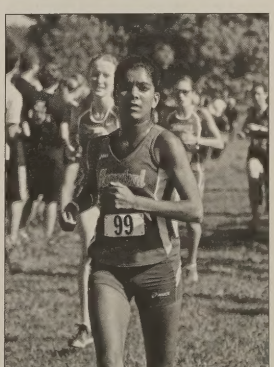


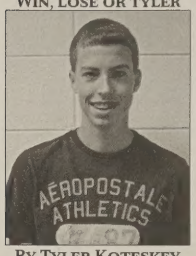
PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY
Mariah Jordan (12), a leader on the team, nears the end of her race before she crosses the finish line in 13th place at the Huntington North Cross Country Invitational.

Torn ACL results in setback for gifted athlete

They are the two words no athlete ever wants to hear: "torn ACL," and yet they were the exact words Emily Bley (12) had to hear this summer. Numerous athletes have had to deal with the same injury at the expense of an entire season. Unfortunately, Bley will have to do the same this year in a recovery process that forces her to be sidelined through the entire soccer season.

Last year, the incredibly successful athlete played a major role in the success of both the girls' soccer and basketball teams. Yet, over this summer at a college camp, Bley injured her knee playing basketball. Initially, she was told by athletic trainers at the camp that "it was just something with [her] muscle." A little over a week later, Bley was cleared to return to the basketball court. Much to her dismay, just seconds after stepping foot on the court at a major college exposure event, her knee refused to work, leaving her motionless on the ground in excruciating pain. As she tells the story, she "felt her knee completely blow out." Not only did she tear her ACL (that's the Anterior Cruciate Ligament in case you were wondering), but she also tore her meniscus, a part of the knee joint connected to the ACL, adding another month of recovery.

WIN, LOSE OR TYLER



BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Sports Editor

One of the scariest things about an ACL tear is that most of the time, the tear is a non-contact injury, meaning you do not have to be tackled by a 300-pound linebacker for it to occur. In fact, it could just be pivoting or jumping that could lead to an ACL tear, which could lead to a season on the sideline. Bley had surgery to repair the tears over the summer, but the recovery process could keep her sidelined until around January. In her senior year of high school, Bley will now have to miss the entire soccer season and probably most of the basketball season, as a result of the now over five-month-long recovery process.

It's all too easy to think of all the ACL horror stories that have devastated numerous athletes everywhere. Just reading stories by torn ACL survivors made my knee cringe in unexplainable pain. However, there have been a number of athletes that have returned from such an injury. In fact, currently there are over twenty different players in the NBA that have had a torn ACL surgically repaired. Notably, NBA stars like Derrick Rose and Ricky Rubio are still recovering from the injury suffered last season. I am also reminded of three years ago when New England Patriot fans watched in horror as Tom Brady suffered a torn ACL in his first game of the season. However, just last season, he returned to the Super Bowl without any problems with his knee.

As if an injury isn't enough to discourage an athlete, Bley will now have to watch the girls' soccer team the whole season.

"I was so upset when I found out I couldn't play soccer," Bley said. "I still am a part of the team, but it's still really hard to watch knowing I can't play the whole season."

> "As for Bley, recovery will be tough to deal with, but like many professional athletes, she can overcome it and return to the basketball court in no time."
>
> **TYLER KOTESKY**

The girls' soccer team still stands strong, led by Ari Nelson (12) and Kelsey Wendlandt (12).

Last year, the team dominated the sectional tournament and achieved a sectional championship. This year, however, they will have to do it with Bley on the sideline. The girls' basketball team also won a sectional championship in 2011 and had a successful record of 18-6 last year. As for Bley, recovery will be tough to deal with, but like many professional athletes, she can overcome it and return to the basketball court in no time. Basically, she has the injury no athlete wants, in the year no athlete wants it, but she could still find success.

ACL INJURY STATISTICS

- Can occur during rough play, motor vehicle collisions, falls and work-related activities but is most often sports related
- Female athletes are at a higher risk for ACL tears
- The person will feel a "pop" in the knee before it gives out, knee swelling and pain
- Football player Tom Brady, golfer Tiger Woods and soccer player Frankie Hejduk have suffered from ACL tears
- ACL is located between the bottom of the femur (thigh) and attaches to the top of the tibia (shin)
- Developing and maintaining strength and endurance can help prevent injury to the ACL

Girls' golf team excels in invitationals

Athletes strive to match success of teams in previous years

BY JESSICA TEBBEN
Writer

The girls' golf team has begun the season with great finishes at major invitationals; however, the team has huge shoes to fill this fall. Last year's team went undefeated in both Junior Varsity and Varsity in the regular season. The Varsity team also broke the school's team record by nine points, aided by Karley Dobis ('12) who tied the school's 18-hole record. In order to continue last year's legacy, the girls are practicing as much as possible this year.

"We have worked hard in practices and helped each other fix our flaws in order to secure our victory each time," Alyssa Hoffman (11) said.

Over the summer, the team practiced every day, and the week before school began, the team participated in several large invitationals. At the Center Grove Invitational, the team placed 13th out of 20 schools in a match that featured very tough teams from the Indianapolis area. Later that same week, the team travelled to the Snider Invitational, where they placed 2nd with an impressive total team score of 344. Now, they continue the season with between two and three matches per week. Before a match begins, teams are given scoreboards. After each team goes through the course, the team with the lowest score wins the match.

New members of the team play just as big a role as the upperclassmen do. Soon, they will be the ones leading the team to victory. The current team members are working on preparing the incoming freshmen for the competition this year and years to come.

"All the upperclassmen have been really nice to me, and they have helped me out and given me tips on what to do," Katelynn Norris (9) said. "It does not matter to team members your grade or skill level."

> "The most rewarding feeling as a member of the team is feeling like a part of a family... Everyone on the team is really close, and it's always fun to be around them."
>
> **Annie Butchko (11)**
> *Golf Team Member*

"The most rewarding feeling as a member of the team is feeling like a part of a family," Annie Butchko (11) said. "Everyone on the team is really close, and it's always fun to be around them."

This year's team is about as promising as last year's, and they are certain that they can live up to legacy that Jasmine Jennings ('12) and Dobis left behind.

"Our goals for the rest of the season are basically to win conference, regionals, sectionals and state," Hoffman said. "We're also trying to improve our individual team scores."

Another goal is to follow in the footsteps of last year's team. As the last team established a prestigious reputation throughout the conference, this year's team would like to emulate their success.

"The team's main goal is to make it through conference matches undefeated," Butchko said.

The team strongly believes that they are capable of having a fantastic season. With continued practice and support from their teammates and classmates, they have a good chance at reaching their team goals and maintaining their reputation. They athletes are looking forward to doing the best they can.

"We have a strong team, and it feels good to have our hard work pay off," Hoffman said.

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIKESELL

FALLING IN TO FIRST PLACE

BY MATT BARBISH
Writer

The varsity football team began the season strong with big victories over non-conference foes Huntington North and Warsaw.

Going into this season, questions surrounded the football program, particularly how the Spartans would fill the void of quarterback left by departing longtime starter Zach Terrell ('12). The Spartans still possess a potent offense full of stars, including wide receivers Isaac Griffith (12) and Seth Coate (12), and running backs Grayson Bastin (12) and Frank Martin (12), but without a quarterback, the offense would not be able to function. Matt Skowronek (12) was given the tough task of replacing Terrell and has not disappointed.

On Aug. 17 the Spartans faced rival Huntington North for the season opener. The game was close until the end of the 2nd quarter when the Spartans offense took off with a pair of touchdowns by Bastin and both a touchdown pass and reception by Coate. By the end of the 3rd quarter, the Spartans had finished off the Vikings, eventually beating Huntington 53-12. Skowronek went 12/22 passing for 99 yards and one touchdown, distributing the ball to his playmakers. Bastin had 15 carries for 92 yards and three touchdowns, Griffith caught five passes for 92 yards and one touchdown and Coate caught three passes for 62 yards and one touchdown with a 37-yard touchdown pass to receiver Griffith.

"It felt good to win my first game and get my feet wet a little," Skowronek said. "Nobody wants to be the guy who has the team digress."

He had to deal with the pressure of immense expectations that come with replacing Terrell.

"I was pretty nervous although I tried not to show it," Skowronek said. "There is always going to be butterflies, and it settled down after a little while."

Once Skowronek settled down, the offense exploded, and the Spartans ran away with the game.

> "Many things just fell into place for me that night, and our team played outstanding."
>
> **GRAYSON BASTIN**
> *RUNNING BACK*

"It felt like a great way to start the season and catching [Skowronek's] first varsity touchdown pass was good as well," Coate said.

As a standout receiver, Coate had both a passing and receiving touchdown in the game.

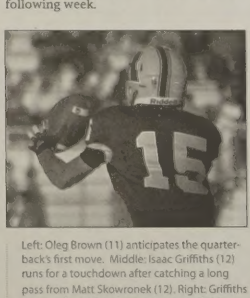
On Aug. 24, the Spartans travelled to Warsaw to face a team who was coming off of a 20-14 upset win over Columbia City. The Spartans took control of the game right out of the gate and quickly ran away with the contest, eventually winning 63-7. Bastin led the team with an illustrious performance of six touchdowns. Bastin rushed eight times for 54 yards and four TDs, caught one pass for a 20-yard touchdown and had a 95-yard kick return touchdown. In addition, Martin rushed five times for 94 yards and a touchdown. Bastin took his game to another level against Warsaw.

"Going into the game felt like it has for any other week because we all just kept the same intensity in our warm up as last week," Bastin said. "Many things just fell into place for me that night, and our team played outstanding."

Following these first two games, many doubts surrounding the team's potential have most certainly been ceased.

"I feel like these first two games have been good statement games for us, just showing everyone that our team has not skipped a beat from last year. A lot of people are stepping up and coming up big for us this year, and I feel like we have the chance to do something very special."

Bastin's six-touchdown game and the Spartans' 63-7 trouncing of Warsaw proved that the Spartans will be a top dog in the NHC once again and will compete for a sectional title. Not only did it solidify the Spartans as a dominant force, but it also gave them confidence. The Spartans (2-0) begin NHC conference play this week against East Noble at home, and face Columbia City in an away game the following week.



Left: Oleg Brown (11) anticipates the quarterback's first move. Middle: Isaac Griffiths (12) runs for a touchdown after catching a long pass from Matt Skowronek (12). Right: Griffiths catches the ball and races down the field.

Sam Van Horn

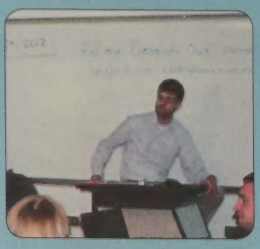
SCHOOL
Indiana University

DEGREE
Secondary Education

FAVORITE MOVIE

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

FAVORITE COLOR
Navy Blue



Philosophy: "I try not to over-teach. It's best to treat students as adults while still having a good time."

The most successful kind of teacher is the kind that loves teaching.

One of the things that helps me connect with a teacher is listening to them tell stories about previous events in their lives.

One thing a teacher should do is talk to students as equals. When talking to the students as equals, it helps the kids not feel intimidated by their teacher

Jessica Randall

SCHOOL
Ball State University

DEGREE
English Education

FAVORITE MOVIE
Billy Madison

FAVORITE COLOR
Purple

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

Philosophy: "My job is to develop students who are critical thinkers and problem-solvers. With a command of English, students should be able to communicate their ideas through the written word."

As the teacher, you stand in front of the class and teach most of the time. But sometimes, let the kids teach themselves or let them learn on their own. See how it goes, and just try to learn from what you and your students do right and wrong.

THE MEET AND GREET

The beginning of a new school year ushers a wave of excitement and anxiety. However, students aren't the only ones who experience the back-to-school jitters. For new teachers, facing a classroom of teenagers can be an intimidating task. This year, students offer their words of wisdom to new teachers joining the faculty.

SCHOOL
Wittenburg University

DEGREE
English

FAVORITE MOVIE
Gone With The Wind

FAVORITE COLOR
Orange

PHOTOS BY EMILY KAMINSKI

Philosophy: "All students can learn, and all students deserve respect"

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

Lisa Baltes

I would advise a new teacher to just be at ease on the first day of school... A stressed out teacher makes it seem as though [they are] unsure of what they are doing.

SCHOOL
Spring Harbor University
University of Toledo

DEGREE
English
Sociology
Secondary Education

FAVORITE MOVIE
BBC Series Pride and Prejudice

FAVORITE COLOR
Teal

Susannah Whitcomb

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

Philosophy: "I would say I'm strict, but I also have a big heart."

I would make sure to keep up with grading and entering grades into Power School. Students hate seeing terrible grades because you haven't entered papers in a few weeks.

THE SPARTANA

NEWS With the implementation of the 1:1 Computing program, students seek ways to override filters on individual laptops . 1

OPINION Legal actions against construction of an Islamic Cultural Center raises concern about American lack of social acceptance. 3

LIFE The slowly diminishing popularity of Facebook gives rise to new, fast-paced social networks that are attracting new users. 5

SPORTS The volleyball team remains undefeated in the NHC Conference after clinching wins over strong conference foes. 7

FEATURE Local restaurants provide an opportunity to indulge in remarkably authentic tastes from various cultures around the globe. 8

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fort wayne, indiana

Friday, September 28, 2012 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Female students complete coursework in classes separated by gender, in accordance with the Project Lead The Way engineering program policy.

Policy creates single-gender classrooms

By Ryan Boylan
News Editor

In response to the ever-increasing male dominance in the engineering field, a policy was recently adopted that divides the project-based engineering classes by gender. Intended to coax aspiring female engineers into the program by eliminating the previously existing bias of gender-based hegemony, the class has received an overall positive response from students and teachers despite its controversial nature.

"In an area like engineering, which has been traditionally a male thing, girls can tend to feel out of place and uncomfortable," Jason Wilson, Guidance Counselor, said, "and then they tend to leave that area, not because they're not interested in what they're covering, but because they're uncomfortable with the dynamics of the classroom."

And though the initial shock of the class's homogeneity was difficult to cope with for some, students are warming up to the notion of this form of separation as the semester progresses.

"At first I was not too happy because I thought that the class wouldn't be very competitive with only girls," Laura Long (10) said, "but it becomes really helpful when everyone in the class can communicate without a gender barrier."

> "In an area like engineering, which has been traditionally a male thing, girls can tend to feel out of place and uncomfortable"
>
> **JASON WILSON**
> *Guidance Counselor*

The idea of an exclusively female class was initially proposed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher Randy Pursley, whose teacher and acquaintance in Ohio started a similar program that

▶ SEE 'ENGINEERING,' PAGE 2

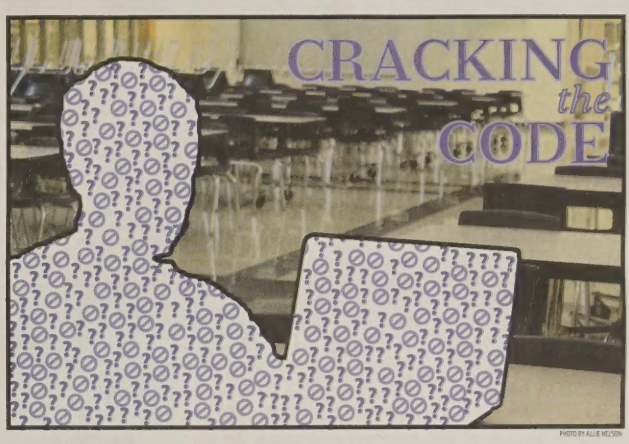

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Students seek to escape filters placed on laptops

By Darby Cook
Writer

As the 1:1 computing program establishes a more significant role in the classroom, some students are attempting to elude what the administration has tried to block.

Despite having signed an agreement at the beginning of the year, many students have broken the contract by downloading games onto their school laptops.

"Almost all of my friends have games on [their laptops]," Danika Bailey (12) said, "like the entire grouping of Pokemon games."

In the minds of most students, the forced reboot in advisory was designed to limit their game downloading and the number of websites students could visit.

"They probably blocked a lot of sites," Bailey said. "I think they're doing their best to not let us have fun with these computers."

Even teachers have noticed students' gaming habits.

"A lot of them play games, so trying to get them off the computer poses a problem," Ellen Waite, Latin teacher, said.

However, both students and teachers mostly believe 1:1 has been successful.

"I like it much more than I thought I was going to," Waite said. "I do incorporate it in my classes, and it hasn't been an issue. I use it as another option for the students to use to study."

▶ SEE 'COMPUTERS,' PAGE 2

PROPER USE

The computer is the school's property [. . .] when students think of what they're going to put on it, or what they'll do with it at home, they should remember that **it's not their own personal computer.**

SUSAN SUMMERS

Students to play roles of ambassadors

Junior establishes Model U.N. club

By Megan Cater
Writer

A new club focusing on countries of the United Nations General Assembly called Model U.N. is now offered to all students. There are no previous classes that need to be taken in order to be a member of this club. Students of all grades are welcome to attend.

Students have the opportunity to role play as ambassadors of an assigned country and debate about a current issue of that country. This club is a simulation concentrating on global issues and allows students to use problem-solving skills to try to tackle recent concerns.

Each student will have the chance to research his chosen country and develop his point of interest.

There will be formal conferences at which the delegated ambassadors will work together with students from other schools to draft resolutions based on their countries' position on the issue. These conference venue locations have yet to be decided.

"After the embassadors convene for a General Assembly hearing and present their country's resolution on the issue, the General Assembly votes on the resolutions," Rutva Shah (11), founder and President of Model U.N. HHS, said. "The resolution receiving the most votes is adopted. There are awards given out to the best delegates."

The adviser of this club is Sam Van Horn, a new Economics and World

▶ SEE 'MODEL U.N.,' PAGE 2

State mandates new teacher evaluation

Administrator presence in classroom increases with required surveillance

PHOTO BY ETHAN YOE

Assistant Principal Susan Summers completes a teacher's evaluation while discretely positioning herself at the back of the classroom. The teacher will review her comments and suggestions about the classroom atmosphere.

By Priscilla Lin
Writer

In addition to changes in technology and administration, the 2012-13 school year has resorted to a new teacher evaluation system. This new system, resulting from a statewide mandate, has the administrators frequenting the classrooms multiple times per week for short increments of time, rather than full periods only a few times per year. The system was developed through a collaborative effort by administrators and teachers and is meant to establish constructive dialogue between the two.

"It's all about communication between administration and teachers," said interim principal Steve Lake. "We want the best teachers that we can possibly have for our kids."

The legislation itself was passed in July of 2011 as an amendment to the Senate Enrolled Act 1. In the following school year, a pilot program was conducted in three school systems, including Fort Wayne Community Schools, before taking effect in every school system for the 2012-13 school year.

As far as the act of carrying out of the evaluation system, most of the decisions are left up to the district. The Indiana Department of Education set out parameters for the district to follow, and as long as those parameters are met, the district can decide how they go about evaluations.

▶ SEE 'EVALUATION,' PAGE 2

RULE OF LAW

The Senate Enrolled Act 1 requires these provisions:

- Rigorous system of evaluation that includes student acheivement
- No student can be taught by teacher rated ineffective two-consecutive years
- Salary, hiring, and evaluation of teachers based on evaluation
- Allows schools to take action against parents with children habitually absent

BRIEFS

SOUTHWEST SPRINT YOUTH TRIATHLON
A race for beginning triathletes will be held on Sept. 30 at 2 pm at Summit Middle School, sponsored by Tri Fort Triathletes. Proceeds will benefit both Fort Wayne Trails and YMCA's Strong Kids. All participants will swim in the SWACS Natatorium, bike in Indian Trails Park and run on the Summit Middle School track.

VISITING COLLEGES
A college will be sending representatives in upcoming days. Students need to register in Student Services and pick up a College Visitation pass at least one day prior to the visit, if they wish to attend. On Oct. 2 an admissions representative from Ivy Tech and Saint Francis will be at school to meet with interested students.

SPEECH AND DEBATE
The Speech and Debate team will hold a meeting every Wednesday after school in room 900. Their first meet is on Oct. 13. Anyone interested in competing should contact either Mr. Fisher in room 616 or Mr. Wolter in room 710.

WINNING BIG

Record number of students receive National Merit Semi-Finalist recognition

An outstanding nine students earned recognition as National Merit Semi-Finalists. The individuals are Max Dvorak (12), Hanita Epstein (12), Madyson Holtzinger (12), Kevin Kusisto (12), Weilin Liao (12), Alison Mansfield (12), Emily Muha (12), Geena Roth (12) and Danielle Wildrick (12). The students' performances on the PSAT exam serves as a basis for the awards; for the class of 2013, students must have earned a score of 211 or higher on the exam to be declared semi-finalists.

Left to right: Epstein, Kusisto, Wildrick, Mansfield, Liao, Dvorak, Muha, Roth. Not pictured: Holtzinger.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY HAMILTON

Teen Driver Safety Foundation offers class

Car Control Clinic provides instruction in classroom, on road to reduce crashes

By Hamna Qureshi
Writer

The New Driver Car Control Clinic, sponsored by the Teen Driver Safety Foundation, teaches new drivers and their parents what to do in an emergency situation. This clinic is hosted in over 20 cities nationwide.

"At the New Driver Car Control Clinic . . . instructors will teach teens and their parents how to instinctively respond in emergency driving situations," according to the informational brochure about the clinic. "[It] is the missing link between basic driver's education and critical accident avoidance training."

The clinic consists of a classroom session is at 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on Oct.18 and a four hour behind-the-wheel session on either Oct. 20 or Oct. 21.

"Through both a classroom setting and a behind-the-wheel program, both parents and teens learn what to do when their car enters the 'emergency zone,'" according to the brochure.

"...We do not accept a young driver without a parent," CarControl.com, the official website of the clinic, reads. "We believe that to be successful, the driver must share information and experience with an adult guide to the future during and after the Clinic experience."

This clinic, however, is not a replacement or substitute for Driver's Ed. Instead it supplements that learning by teaching students how to handle themselves in an emergency.

"[The clinic's] program for parents and young drivers is the next and perhaps the most critical step beyond traditional driver's education . . . . [It] introduces young drivers to behind the wheel circumstances that replicate those they will experience in the three seconds immediately preceding their first crash," according to CarControl.com.

Sean Harkness, one of the instructors for Driver's Ed at Homestead, feels that this clinic is beneficial to student drivers.

"I do know that any extra help . . . would be helpful," Harkness said. "If they teach things that we don't teach, [the clinic] would be worth it."

The New Driver Car Control Clinic does indeed produce positive results. According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety, people who have graduated from the clinic over the past four years have had 77 percent less crashes than their fellow peers who were not in the clinic.

Students believe that this clinic will be helpful to students, especially when they are first learning how to drive.

▶ SEE 'DRIVING CLINIC,' PAGE 2

▶3000
approximate number of teenage deaths as a result of car crashes in 2009

▶COMPUTERS CONTINUED FROM 1

Meanwhile, the administration continues to correct the technical problems with 1:1. Approximately 150 students had to turn their laptops over to the IMC for unknown corrections.

"There is a program on the laptops that was not installed correctly this summer and it wasn't allowing them to pick up updates like the follow-me-printers," said Susan Summers, assistant principal.

Similarly, all students were forced to reboot their laptops in advisory.

"The follow-me printers were the number one reason to make sure everyone had updated the laptops," Summers said. "When they're updated, then the printers work. If they don't reboot, the laptop cannot pick up the new printer names."

In the meantime, administrators suggest that students utilize their laptops for exclusively educational purposes. Furthermore, this educational activity is the same type of activity students should be involved in on their laptops at home.

"The computer is the school's property," Summers said, "and so when students think of what they're going to put on it, or what they'll do with it at home, they should remember that it's not their own personal computer."

THE GAMING

One of the most popular games used by students is the Pokemon game. A calibrator allows students to conform these programs, which originally appeared in GameBoy systems, to a form appli- cable to the lap tops. Teachers are frustrated by student use of these games during classtime.

PHOTO FROM WWW.FANPOP.COM

▶ENGINEERING CONTINUED FROM 1

yielded promising results.

"The research is pretty overwhelming that female students, especially young students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related areas, tend to do better when they are grouped early on," Pursley said.

> "The research is pretty overwhelming that female students, especially young students in STEM related areas, tend to do better when they are grouped early on."
>
> **RANDY PURSLEY**
> *Engineering Teacher*

After only the fifth week of the program's existence, however, it is hard to say whether or not its results will parallel those of its heralds. It is, for all practical purposes, still in a highly experimental phase.

"It would be interesting to see how those students who signed up for the all-girls [class] go through this path," Wilson said, "and if they do then I would say it's been a major success."

And despite the speculative nature of the class, neither students in the class nor their parents have voiced any complaints thus far. In some cases, foreseen complications of instructing a class with solely female constituents have manifested themselves not as a fault, but as a corollary benefit.

"The class gets chatty when we have free time, but everyone works while we talk," Long said. "No one is afraid to ask their neighbor a question about the assignment or anyone in the class. Having all girls creates a more relaxing and workable environment where communication is easy and engineering requires communication and teamwork."

But with the reticence and general acceptance that most have approached the introduction of this moderately dubious new program, the question arises as to whether or not this brand of gender segregation will become commonplace outside of just engineering classes.

"I could definitely see some of the [STEM areas] that have traditionally lacked female presence picking this up if the numbers are good and we have girls sticking with the program all four years," Wilson said. "If this becomes a mechanism through which girls can develop an interest in the sciences, then I'm all for it."

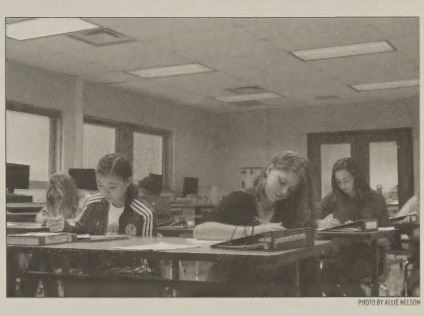

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Engineering students participate in coursework assigned in the all-girl classroom.

▶EVALUATION CONTINUED FROM 1

The system set up by Homestead consists of software loaded onto iPads that allows administrators to check boxes describing what was observed of both teachers and students during that timeframe. A screenshot is immediately sent to the teacher's email so they can see exactly what the evaluation said. The teachers will receive one of four ratings: highly effective, effective, improvement necessary or ineffective.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the new legislation is the requirement that all Indiana teachers must now be paid based on merit. While the district will also take things such as education into consideration, teacher compensation may also be affected by these evaluations.

"[The evaluations] will be used to determine whether a teacher receives a raise for the coming school year," Matt Elder, physics teacher, said. "If a teacher does not receive either of the top two categories, they will not receive a raise the following year."

Additionally, the new system provides the administration with the option of terminating a teacher based on his or her evaluation. According to an article published by National Public Radio, "While the exact requirements for getting rid of teachers vary by experience level, a district basically has the option of firing a teacher after two 'ineffective' ratings."

Both administration and teachers have high hopes for this new system, believing that the frequency of the visits will improve the relations between administrators and teachers as well as those between administrators and students.

"The kids are starting to get used to seeing us, getting used to knowing who we are, and it's exciting to see teachers doing exciting things that we'd otherwise miss out on," Lake said. "I think it's going to be a really positive thing.

> "The kids are starting to get used to seeing us, getting used to knowing who we are, and it's exciting to see teachers doing exciting things that we'd otherwise miss out on."
>
> **STEVE LAKE**
> *Principal*

Overall, the reactions towards the new evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. Students have, for the most part, reported that the administrators are welcomed in the classroom and never seem to create a distraction. Teachers have also found the administrators' presence helpful to their teaching.

"Seeing my colleagues so frequently helps me to see the class through their eyes," English teacher Scott Hill said. "I've noticed myself imagining my class from another perspective; seeing my colleagues in the class so often has me thinking 'how does this look for them?' I find it refreshing."

Despite the positive reactions towards most of the mandate, there is still skepticism regarding the merit pay that the teachers will be facing.

"There is no research that shows [merit pay] is going to help improve education," art teacher Mike Schmid said. "It could cause competition between teachers that should be working in a collegial atmosphere . . . the state's mandate was developed not to improve education, but to destroy the teachers' union and contain teacher salaries." Schmid believes the new system should be approached with caution. Beyond the district's handling of the mandate, Schmid is concerned with the state legislation and its role in education.

"Elected officials with no experience in education are making decisions on how to improve education," Schmid said. "Everything is based on student scores on state mandated standardized tests. Are we teaching to educate students, or to do well on tests?"

"I feel like the state is moving backwards," Schmid said. "They're taking away teacher's ability to

▶MODEL U.N. CONTINUED FROM 1

History teacher. "I was asked to be the adviser and I am very interested in international events. I wanted to be involved because it is a great opportunity for students and it's a great experience," Van Horn said.

Some students wonder why it took so long for this popular national club to find a place at Homestead. Other area schools have developed Model U.N. programs.

"I'm not sure why nobody started this club earlier," Shah said. "It has been around for decades, and even Canterbury has had Model U.N. for a while now. It is like the U.N. version of DECA."

Model U.N. is a unique method to learn more about foreign countries, widen awareness of the world, and attempt to understand how the United Nations operates. The knowledge gained from years of Social Studies and History classes can now be put to the test in a competitive yet enjoyable way.

"I thought it sounded interesting so I researched it and found out it was an internationally renown[ed] club and had a lot to offer," Shah said, "so I presented the idea to Mrs. Bay and she loved it. Then I tried to get it to start at Homestead."

> "I was asked to be the adviser and I am very interested in international events. I wanted to be involved because it is a great opportunity for students and it's a great experience."
>
> **SAM VAN HORN**
> *Model U.N. Adviser*

Shah and Van Horn are optimistic about the club's future.

"We are hoping the club will continue on for more than a few years here," Van Horn said.

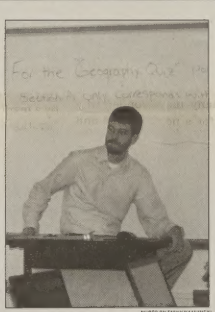

PHOTO BY EMILY KAMINSKI

Mr. Van Horn leads a history class in discussion. His background in social sciences and interest in current affairs makes him a great choice for an adviser to the Model U.N. club. With his energy and expertise, students hope to develop the new student ambassador program into a prominent club.

▶DRIVING CLINIC CONTINUED FROM 1

"This clinic will be most useful for students when they first learn to drive because they are not super confident in their driving abilities," Jessica Hammes (11) said. "I think it will help get rid of some of the panic students will feel in the [emergency situations]."

"I think it would be awesome for us beginning drivers," Jessica Kim (12) said. "There are so many things going on if you're in any type of emergency situation, and it'll be good for the students to have a sense of what to do in these situations."

▶33

percentage of teenage deaths from age 13-19 as a result of fatal car crashes

MEET THE DRUG DOG: THOR

Though in a sea of perpetually changing administrative officers and teachers it can often seem as if the only constant during high school is change itself, the presence of a police dog transcends these frequent changes. Thor, the police dog inaugurated this year at HHS, is responsible—as his predecessors have been—for student safety and conduct.

While the self-apparent impetus for a police dog is to serve as a deterrent against illicit drugs and firearms, both of which it can sniff out, it is also necessary for tracking purposes. If, for instance, a student were to advertently or inadvertently leave campus during school hours, the appointed dog is responsible for relocating aforementioned student.

When Thor is unoccupied in the hallways, however, Resource Officer Ingrid Herriott invites students to pet him and familiarize themselves with him provided they ask her permission first, which dispels any potential perception of harmful intent.

PHOTO BY EMILY KAMINSKI

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

AP PHOTO

Removing meat products from festival detracts from people's enjoyment

By Sophia Brown
Writer

Every year Fort Wayne hosts a festival that honors the life and legend of Johnny Appleseed. This year, Ethical Treatment of Animals, an animal rights group, and PETA tried to dispose of all the various meats sold at the festival in honor of the pioneer's vegetarianism and have called upon local organizers and vendors to consider offering meatless options on next year's menu.

The members of the Ethical Treatment of Animals say that John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) never ate meat and rescued numerous animals when he wasn't planting apple trees. This group pushed for the annual festival to honor his "compassionate legacy" by going meatless, thus sparking a major conflict for meat lovers who annually attend the Johnny Appleseed festival. Luckily Bridget Kelly, the festival's Food Booth Chairman, said meat will remain on the menu but will add vegetarian foods next year.

The festival has been serving classic meat dishes for years, and about 250,000 people attend the festival each year to see the vendors cook their favorite meats. Kelly said that PETA clearly wants the festival to go meatless, but that is out of the question because the festival-goers look forward to enjoying the endless mounds of meat offered, such as grilled turkey legs, pork chops and ham and beans on wood fires. Moreover, 20 percent of the sales go toward supporting the festival, which charges no admission. The foolishness of eliminating the people's favorites, and maybe even some people's entire reason for attending the festival, is just not right. By disposing all the meat that is served every year, the attendance of the Johnny Appleseed festival could decrease dramatically.

PETA contends that Johnny Appleseed "would be horrified" by the modern day festival serving all these various types of meats because they believe that the festival is not appropriately honoring his life. The organization also believes that the meat comes from modern day industrial-scale farms where thousands of animals are raised in closed quarters. This is not true, but even if it was it isn't the organization's place to dictate where the vendors get their meat.

> "The Johnny Appleseed festival does not attract over 250,000 people every year because of a lack of vegan food."
>
> **SOPHIA BROWN**

Ethical Treatment of Animals and PETA were not happy to hear there would still be meat served at the festival, but agreed that it is a "good start" to have more vegetarian foods added to the festival and vendors to offer more vegan food. To raise more awareness this year, PETA attended the festival and distributing leaflets urging festival-goers to try the vegetarian lifestyle.

The Johnny Appleseed festival does not attract over 250,000 people every year because of lack of vegan food. It is because what they have done for the past 38 years has attracted countless attendees for its pioneer vibe and its delicious food, including meat. To completely eliminate meat form the menu is nonsense, but adding more vegan food for those who are vegetarian would bring happiness to both sides.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Festival volunteer applies carmael to apples. A Johnny Appleseed festival staple, caramel apples were some of the many food items of which organizations promoting the ethical treatment of animals approved.

1:1 implementation causes textbook negligence

In a hurried attempt to level the technological playing field for all students, 1:1 technology was implemented. A year ago, the idea seemed like a meaner and more menacing Navigation 101 waiting to happen. Admittedly, the task of giving each and every high school student a laptop seemed daunting and doomed for failure. The financial burden alone seemed insurmountable, not including the mind-boggling task of setting rules and regulations for use. However, despite early road bumps in making the systems relatively functional and some practical problems given impractical solutions, 1:1 technology should eventually get a passing grade.

As expected, along with the laptops came an Internet filter stricter than a Puritan and enough locks on administrator settings to put up a good defense against even the most tech-savvy high school student. While they were anticipated, they don't exactly make the computers more useful. Innocent sites like Wikipedia continue to be blocked, even though its usefulness as a general research base is evident. Email continues to be blocked even though it could make a student's life vastly easier–group projects, backing up files, college and scholarship applications, the list goes on.

Furthermore, simple setting changes could easily make a student's academic life more efficient and personal. High school students are not incapable of permanently setting the brightness of the computer screen, nor are they incapable of setting a default browser. The administration's dismal level of confidence in students is shocking.

Although laptops will be beneficial in the long run, the shortage of electronic books seems to make the student's job only more difficult. On top of almost all textbooks, he must now carry a laptop. It may have been more prudent for the school to wait until all textbooks could be carried electronically before making the switch to laptops and increasing the student's daily burden.

Additionally, many students spent the first several weeks of school without textbooks while others were equipped with less than stellar ones, like the notorious math books that are older than many of the students themselves. All in all, if electronic books aren't an option, decent and usable textbooks being available to all students should've been the school's top priority.

There's no doubt the 1:1 technology program will be a huge asset to students. It ensures that all students, even those without personal computers, will be at a more equal academic level, but it may have been wiser to set reasonable filters and blocks and improve textbooks and make them more readily available. Welcome to the 21st century.

The Ed Board

Joe Laughlin *Tori Barnard*
Laura Zweig *Clair Pranger*
Dani Castonzo *Ryan Boylan*

{The Bottom Line} *Although 1:1 technology is an important step in the right direction, improving real textbooks should've been a higher priority.*

mosque MATTERS

Resistance to building new, Detroit area mosque borders on cultural intolerance

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Editor

America is in the midst of a cultural war that has been quietly raging since the fateful morning of Sept. 11, 2001. Now, the next chapter of that war is unfolding in suburban Detroit, where a vacant elementary school building is slated to become a new center for the Islamic Cultural Association.

While many may wonder why this proposal for a new mosque and community center is any cause for concern, a Christian legal advocacy group has taken it upon themselves to derail the project as part of its goal to confront the "threat of Islam" in America. Together with the Ann Arbor-based Thomas More Law Center, they have made several allegations that the building which is to become the mosque was illegally obtained and have even gone so far as to accuse Islamic organizations country-wide of taking advantage of the American legal system to wage a "stealth jihad" bent on turning America into an Islamic nation.

This kind of blatant xenophobia that has been perverted into a twisted sense of patriotism in the years since the attack on the World Trade Center is nothing less than inexcusable. Americans should be deeply ashamed when they see their brethren bombing mosques or burning Qurans. Disgraceful does not even come close to describing the fact that this intolerance is so widespread it has now been given a name: Islamophobia. Islamophobia should not be a nation-wide phenomenon; it should not even exist in the public sphere, and the sad fact that an entire nation can be gripped by a fear that by textbook definition is "irrational" is beyond comprehension. This country was founded on the principle of freedom of religion, and while that does not give extremists the right to fly planes into buildings, it also does not give those who condemn the extremists the right to stamp out an entire culture by holding the innocent accountable.

How can this nation expect to hold its head high as the land of opportunity and acceptance when its citizens refuse to be tolerant of others? The unutterable truth is that the memory of 9/11 would not sting half as bad if the culprits had been Christians, but no one is willing to say it out loud. There is no excuse for bigotry, and it is high time that Americans stop letting it cloud their judgment.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety," and yet here is an entire country of fools willing to do just that. If Americans still hold fast to the ideals on which this country was founded, those spelled out in the Constitution, then they should not be able to stand idly by while some of their fellow citizens use them no more effectively than toilet paper.

Religions can preach that they are better than any other faith, but the instant they set about prohibiting the practice all other faiths is the instant they no longer have any place in America. This is a patchwork nation of a multitude of cultures, and just like a patchwork quilt, individual squares must work as one to hold the whole quilt together.

It is absolutely shameful that hate and fear are getting the better of the American populace and are causing them to lash out a perfectly innocent people whose only connection to the fanatics who orchestrated the attack is their religion. America cannot just preach liberty and justice for all; it must also practice that mantra, and until that day comes, this nation cannot truly be the land of the free.

THE GREAT DEBATE

"[The effort is] **targeting innocent Americans** because of their faith."
Islamic Association's Attorney

"[Our goal is to confront the] **threat of Islam**."
Christian Legal Advocacy Group

THOMAS MORE Law Center
The Sword and Shield for People of Faith

Book detailing Bin Laden's assassination controversial

Author Mark Owen has betrayed fellow Navy SEALs publication of "No Easy Day"

By Devin Wright
Writer

On Sept. 4, an author by the pseudonym "Mark Owen" released his new book "No Easy Day," which describes in detail the assassination of the infamous terrorist Osama Bin Laden. As a member of SEAL Team 6, the division assigned to the mission, Owen took it upon himself to give a firsthand account of the events that transpired that night. Though this book is surely an ideal read for anyone interested, it stirred up several controversies upon its release.

Before it went to print, the book was supposed to be reviewed by the Pentagon to ensure it revealed no military secrets. Owen failed to comply with this requirement and now faces legal persecution by the Pentagon.

"Disclosure of classified information constitutes a violation of federal criminal law," Jeh Johnson, General Counsel of the Department of Defense, said. Clearly, Owen should have submitted a transcript of the book to the Pentagon to prevent any such information from being leaked. The Pentagon, however, has yet to release any specific instances of classified information, which brings question to their claim. It is most likely worried about the discontinuities between the book and the official administrative report, such as where Bin Laden was when he was shot.

Regardless of whether classified information was released, the former Navy SEAL should not have published his experience as a military officer. Being an American soldier is the noblest service a citizen can do for his country and people because he is putting his life at risk solely to protect the nation and to defend all that it represents. All these heroic attributes, however, must come with the absolute sacrifice of silence, nothing less. Owen served his nation faithfully and heroically, but he betrayed his comrades in SEAL Team 6 as well as the entire Navy chain of command when he detailed the events to the world.

> "Owen served his nation faithfully and heroically, but he betrayed his comrades in SEAL Team 6 as well as the entire Navy chain of command when he detailed the events to the world."
>
> **DEVIN WRIGHT**

When one serves the country in military service, it is a sacrifice. One is expected to give everything and ask for nothing in return. It is not fair, and it is not meant to be. One's reward will not come in this life. The moment one feels entitled to anything besides the opportunity to serve, the principles of the nation have been comprised. That is the difference between the hero George Washington and the traitor Benedict Arnold. George Washington gave his life to his country, both in and outside the military, while Benedict Arnold sold his honor to live a lavish life. Owen is also a traitor in this sense. He not only asked for, but felt entitled to something in return for his service. He sold his honor to benefit himself and betrayed 8,000 fellow SEALs in return.

"Living with a compromised character is the definition of hell on earth," an unnamed former Navy SEAL said. "The men who stood next to you should have been everything you needed. Now we weep from your betrayal, and we pray for your soul."

OWEN'S ODYSSEY

Because Owen did not send "No Easy Day" to the Pentagon before publishing, there have been discrepancies in facts with the official administrative report, such as Bin Laden's exact location.

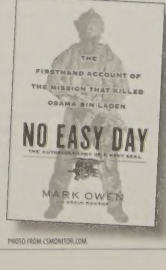

PHOTO FROM CSMONITOR.COM

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Band begins competition season on a high note

Students march on path to state with this year's innovative show, "The Lost Melody"

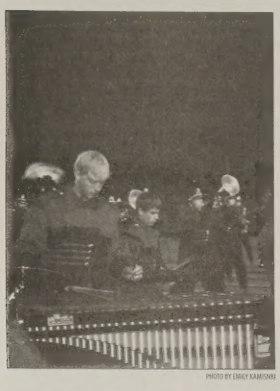

PHOTO BY EMILY RAMSOM

Chris Schacher (12), a senior leader on the band, plays the auxiliary percussion instrument during the half-time show at a home football game against Bellmont.

By William Ngo
Writer

Hitting a high note, band began their season with the title of Grand Champions. On September 8, the defending state champs earned the highest point total out of all four divisions at the Bluffton band competition. The team took first place in the Class A division and received the general effect, visual and music captions.

The show, titled "The Lost Melody," opens with color guard being immediately captivated by a pleasant tune from a flute player. The color guard members are left wanting more of the sound and proceed to look for it in remaining instrument sections. However, the ensemble counters them with an anti-melody. Upset by the dark ominous song they hear, the musicians and color guard battle.

"We don't have to keep a happy-smiley face and can just unleash our wild sides," color guard member Lauren Lawhead (11) said.

The chaos halts when the flutist plays the melody once more. The color guard and band members are then unified through their devotion to success, a mentality that won them state last year.

The eight minute performance is more than meets the eye. Strenuous practices are held every weekday: seventh period to 5 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. During these times, band focuses on visual and musical aspects, so their routine is at its best and ready for judging on competition day.

"They gave a flying performance for this time of year," band director Steve Barber said. "It's still very early in the season, and we have a lot of work to do."

Newcomers Chase Carter (9) and Jack Bell (9) discovered band is much more than an after school activity and requires dedication and commitment. Although the work is demanding, neither regrets their decision to join band. Alongside approximately 270 other students, they are actively working to earn another state championship win.

"Music is my passion," Carter said. "[Band] has friends and music combined in the same place."

Visual practice days put emphasis on technical features of the show, such as elaborate formations and choreography alterations. Music days, on the other hand, allow musicians to perfect dynamics and tempo factors. All this labor formulates for a well-rounded performance which may, in the end, merit them an opportunity to perform at Lucas Oil Stadium for state finals.

Members like Fred Schreibert (12) believe the music was more difficult to play than previous shows. However, because this is his fourth year participating in band, tackling the music was no foreign task.

This upcoming season, band will be fighting at each of their competitions to prove the justification of their 2011 state champion win. Every member will maximize their performance level and represent their band with great pride.

"We stressed excellence last year, and that will be the exact same approach this year," assistant band director Brad Wadkins said.

The marching band had received much more than championship rings within the past year. On top of the countless media coverage, the city officially recognized Nov. 1 as Homestead Alliance Marching Band Day to show appreciation towards the hard-working students.

Already with highly regarded accomplishments after only the first competition, the band members will continue to set higher levels of achievement to reach. They will use every given moment they have throughout the season to work and attain their goal.

"It's not the end," Carter said. "It's just the beginning."

Double Take

By Kate Troutman
Writer

Although most people need a mirror to see their reflection, a small percentage of the population can see their face without a mirror. There are multiple sets of twins that roam the halls with their genetic copy every day.

Bere & Abby

The Clarkes

Spartana: What are the perks of being a twin?
Abby: When we need help with homework, we can help each other since we are both in basically the same classes.
Bere: Homework help and she makes me laugh.
Spartana: What are the downsides of being a twin?
Abby: We are always compared to one another.
Bere: Being compared to Abby and when one person gets their way one time, the other person gets their way the next time by default
Spartana: How are you two different from one another?
Abby: We are different in just about everything.
Bere: We are different in practically everything.
Spartana: Do you do any stereotypical twin things, like finishing each other's sentences?
Abby: When we were little before we could actually talk, we had a secret language, and no one could understand us.
Bere: Not really, but I can practically make Abby laugh at will no matter the situation.
Spartana: Favorite food?
Abby: I like avocados.
Bere: Food in general.

Paul & Kevin

The Kusistos (12)

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Spartana: Which of the two of you is older?
Paul: Kevin by 21 minutes.
Spartana: How are you and your twin alike?
Paul: Same birthday.
Kevin: Same last name.
Spartana: How are you and your twin different?
Paul: We have completely different interests. I am good at math and science, while Kevin is good at English and art.
Kevin: Everything. I like to read more than use the computer.
Spartana: Are there any perks about being a twin?
Paul: It's nice to have someone in the same grade.
Kevin: I get to be written about in the Spartana!
Spartana: Favorite magazine?
Paul: Popular Mechanics
Kevin: I don't really read magazines.

Nathan & Drake

The Mohamedalis (11)

Spartana: What are the advantages of being a twin?
Nathan: Having someone that looks like you.
Drake: Having someone to help me with my homework.
Spartana: What are some disadvantages of being a twin?
Nathan: Having someone that looks like you.
Drake: Being called Nathan.
Spartana: Are you two close?
Nathan: No. Well, not really.
Drake: I guess his response answers this..
Spartana: Who is older?
Drake: Nathan by approximately 20 minutes.
Spartana: Favorite subject?
Nathan: My favorite subject is Math.
Drake: Math for me, too.

Allison & Amanda

The Prindles (12)

Spartana: What is the best part about being a twin?
Amanda: My favorite part about being a twin is having a sister my age. We are able to share everything because we are the same size.
Allison: My favorite part about being a twin is that I'll always have a best friend and someone to depend on no matter what, and Amanda brings me home pizza from Pizza Hut, where she works.
Spartana: What is the worst part about being a twin?
Amanda: The worst part about being a twin is never getting complete recognition by my classmates, teachers, and others for being an individual. I'm always known as "the twin" rather than "Amanda." The most frustrating thing is being in a class for a quarter and somebody asks if I'm Allison or Amanda!
Allison: The worst part about being a twin is that no one knows which twin I am, and I basically have two names– Allison and Amanda. Also, when Amanda and I argue, we laugh the whole time because we're arguing with someone who looks exactly like us. You should try arguing to yourself in a mirror and not laugh, it's hard.

Student performs in worldwide piano competition

Jiwon Park given opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall after earning second place

Jiwon Park (12) is living the dream come true for any aspiring musician. After earning second place in a worldwide piano competition, Jiwon has been given the opportunity to perform live at Carnegie Hall in New York City this October. Park has been involved in several other international competitions, getting the opportunity to play with the best pianists in the world in countries like Japan and France. The Spartana caught up with Park as she began to prepare for her Carnegie Hall performance on October 12.

Spartana: When did you first start playing piano and why did you decide you wanted to learn?
Jiwon Park: I first started playing piano in South Korea at the age of four mainly because my aunt was a piano teacher. She gave me piano lessons on a daily basis and took me to piano competitions.
Spartana: When did you start competing?
Jiwon Park: I started competing when I was five. I won my first concerto competition in 4th grade in St. Paul, Minnesota. My first solo performance with an orchestra was in 5th grade when I performed a Mozart concerto with the Roseville All-District Youth Orchestra. Since then, I've performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Wayne Youth Symphony.
Spartana: What was this summer's competition like and how did you qualify?
Jiwon Park: So over the summer, I won 2nd place at the World Piano Competition. There were three rounds to the competition: the state round, international semifinal round, and the international final round. I was automatically selected as one of five semifinalists because I won a famous concerto competition last year. The semifinal round was held in Cincinnati, Ohio at the Aronoff Center on June 25th. Three finalists were chosen after that and had to compete again on June 28. The final round decided the medal rankings. The competition was extremely fierce. I didn't think I would even make it to the finals. This summer, I was also selected as a finalist of the Osaka International Music Competition in Osaka, Japan. This competition has several preliminary rounds, semifinals, and finals. Only the finalists are invited to perform in Osaka, Japan. Also for this competition, I was lucky enough to skip the preliminary and semifinal rounds because I was personally nominated as a finalist by Professor Dina Yoffe of the Arthur Rubinstein Academy in Germany.
Spartana: What is your practice schedule like?
Jiwon Park: I practice about 2-3 hours on weekdays and 5-6 hours on weekends. Before competitions, I practice 4-5 hours on weekdays and 6-8 hours on weekends. During the summer, I practice 5-6 hours every day.
Spartana: How do you balance piano with schoolwork?
Jiwon Park: Two to three weeks before big competitions, I prioritize piano over school, but normally, I try to maintain more focus on school. On most school nights, I only practice piano in the evening, then wake up at 3 am to do my homework and study for tests.
Spartana: Do you plan to pursue piano after high school?
Jiwon Park: I definitely want to pursue music after graduating from high school. I want to double major in piano performance and bioinformatics or biostatistics. Among the music schools I'm applying to are Juilliard School of Music, Peabody Conservatory of John Hopkins University, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Northwestern School of Music, and New England Conservatory. However, I don't know if I want to live a professional career as a musician. I've always been interested in math and science, so I'm also interested in going to medical school.
Spartana: What do you plan on playing at Carnegie Hall?
Jiwon Park: I plan to perform Liszt Concert Etude No. 1, "Waldesrauschen," Beethoven Sonata Op. 10 No. 1 and maybe even Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12.
Spartana: What are you doing to prepare for this performance?
Jiwon Park: I'm just preparing by practicing like crazy and working with my piano professor at Ball State University.
Spartana: Do you have any other important performances coming up?
Jiwon Park: Hopefully, I'll be able to go to Spain this coming May to compete. Also, next May, I am soloing with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic at Embassy Theater. I'll be performing Saint Saens Piano Concerto No. 2. Last, this summer, I also gave a solo benefit concert in Washington D.C.

Columnist reflects on inadequate texting practices

I've never been a huge texter. Sure, texting's handy when you're sitting alone in the doctor's office, pretending to talk to someone or when you need to get in touch with someone you dislike. However, certain people are lazy with texting; they shorten things and bore you and completely eliminate the rules of grammar and social courtesy in general. So here is a list of my texting pet peeves:

1. Excessive acronym use: Sure, acronyms were all the rage in sixth and seventh grade, when we all had flip phones with huge buttons and it took twenty minutes to text "hello." But almost everyone I know has a full keyboard now. There is no excuse to send anything of the "Omg, I lol'ed, ikr ttyl ily!" variety. You can't take the extra ten seconds to avoid sounding like a barely literate 13 year-old bimbo?

2. The double text: We've all been here. A friend sends a conversation ender, such as "Yeah" or "Definitely!" and you stop responding, confident that there is no interesting way to continue the conversation. Twenty minutes later, your phone vibrates. Your friend is back. "So how are those college apps going?" she asks, or "Did you wash your dog yet?" It's almost always a stupid question, but you feel obligated to respond. And so begins a horrible question and answer that eventually ends with you pretending your phone died or was eaten, wishing that you hadn't started talking to them in the first place. That is how you ruin a previously decent conversation.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

3. The double text ("hello?" edition): The conversation is over. You drop your phone and go grab a sandwich. When you return, you have several new messages, all from the same friend. "Hello?" "Wat happened?" "Are you there???????" I have no idea what these people are thinking. Are they worried that I've been attacked and robbed of my phone? If so, what is their insistent texting going to do? Not like the guy is going to go "Oh, sounds like her friend's worried...maybe I should give her the phone back."

4. The "hey" introduction: This conversation is doomed from the start, because it has no room to grow. "Hey." "Hey." "How's it going?" "Okay." "Oh." Well, that was five minutes of your life you'll never get back.

5. "What's up?": The sky. My ceiling. The fan. Clouds. Jupiter. God. You pick.

6. The run-on sentence: Everyone has that one friend who completely disregards punctuation marks when they text or type, making everything she says sound stupid. "i think everyone should recycle recycling is good because we don't want to die without any resources that would be bad save the planet." The idea was nice; we should recycle. Maybe if this person had thrown in a period or two I would have thought about recycling instead of wondering how she ever passed out of elementary English.

7. The parent who can't text: Maybe it's just my parents, but I feel like the entire older generation kind of missed the texting boat. I received this the other day on my way to the store: "Hi honey please buy milk. Did u vacuum? I bought u toothpaste (mint). Love mom." Maybe it's the multiple non sequitors. Maybe it's the random, "I can be hip too" use of "u." Something's just not right here.

> "It's just a k. Maybe they only have one finger available at the moment. Maybe their phone died before they could spell out the rest of the word 'kangaroo.'"
>
> **DANI CASTONZO**

8. Excessive laughter: An "lol" or "haha" here and there is fine, but some people feel the need to digitally chuckle after every single thing they say. "Haha wow." "I got an F lol." "Dude it's raining tehe." What is this? Maybe they're actually sitting there laughing out loud and knee-slapping after everything I tell them, but I find this hard to believe. I'm not that funny.

9. "K.": I know you're expecting me to say that I hate it when people respond with "k." Actually, I hate it when people say they hate it. Basically, they believe that "k" is the equivalent of "I'd rather be talking to someone else, I don't even care enough to spell out a whole word, you're ugly and I hate you." Dude. It's just a k. Maybe they only have one finger available at the moment. Maybe their phone died before they could spell out the rest of the word "kangaroo."

Don't you have bigger things to complain about?

If you've done any of these things in the past, it's never too late to change. I encourage you to go that extra mile. Spell out "I know, right?"; start with something more interesting than "hey"; resist the urge to double text. You sound smarter already.

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New social networks replace Facebook

Twitter, Instagram to fulfill void left in realm of social networking

LAURA ZWEIG
Executive Editor

There's no one who will admit to having a MySpace these days. The mighty site that was once the epitome of cool is now relegated to the island of misfit toys where trends go to die. Is Facebook headed the same way?

Facebook, the ubiquitous social media website that seemingly everyone is a member of, started out a little more exclusive. Born in the Harvard dorm room of Mark Zuckerberg, the website was an online depository of personal information designed to help students find others in their courses, dormitories, or social organizations, according to a 2004 article in "The Harvard Crimson."

Initially open only to college students with a "@harvard.edu" email address, the site quickly expanded to other Ivy League and Boston-area universities. In 2006 Facebook opened registration to anyone 13 years or older with a valid email address. Today Facebook has 955 million users.

"I use Facebook to stay in touch with my friends who I don't really get to see that often. I also use it to communicate with friends I do see often," James Chen (12) said.

Facebook has become a sort of information dump where one can easily look up facts about any person on his or her friend list. A person's profile page easily organizes and reveals his or her birthday, location, interests, relationship status and photos. The person can answer Facebook's posed question of "What's on your mind?" by updating his or her status, and other users can post on their friends' timelines to communicate.

Over time, a set of unofficial guidelines have emerged for when and how often one can update his or her Facebook.

"If you post every single thing you're doing on Facebook, people will judge you," Mary Wilson (10) said.

Due to this unspoken rule, Wilson and many other tech-savvy teens are focusing their attention on Twitter. This newer site, founded in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Evan Williams and Biz Stone, allows users to share short, 140 character maximum statuses called Tweets. 500 million users post short bits of inconsequential information at a rate of 340 million Tweets per day.

"My primary social media website is Twitter because I like seeing everyone's updates every day," Kelly Crewse (12) said. "Tweets are short and so it's not an overwhelming amount of information on the timeline. Facebook can just get annoying with all of the things going on."

> "It goes back to MySpace. First everyone was on MySpace; then they got bored and moved to Facebook. I think that's happening again."
>
> **MARY WILSON (10)**
> *Facebook User*

Users of both sites tend to find Twitter's simplistic, stream-of-consciousness layout more appealing.

"Twitter seems like it's easier to update more often. Facebook has a lot of useless information. On Twitter you just follow the people you want instead of being obligated to be friends with some people," Hanita Epstein (12) said.

In addition to the scores of celebrities and news outlets utilizing Twitter, it has had an instrumental effect on social issues. From being used to ask questions in major political debates to organizing the events of the Arab Spring, Twitter has become a powerful tool for change.

While Facebook still has more users, the trend seems to be moving toward Twitter.

"It goes back to MySpace. First everyone was on MySpace; then they got bored and moved to Facebook," Wilson said. "I think that's happening again."

Users follow innovation; they require a dramatic change from the old. Twitter was just different enough from Facebook to succeed where other sites failed. For instance, in 2011 Google launched a Facebook doppelganger called Google+. Featuring similar picture and information posts, Google+ never really took off for the mainstream public.

"I never joined Google+ because it just seemed confusing and a lot like Facebook," Crewse said.

Twitter, when paired with the photo-sharing website Instagram, replaces Facebook and Google+'s extensive profiles with up-to-the-minute updates of what a user's friends are doing.

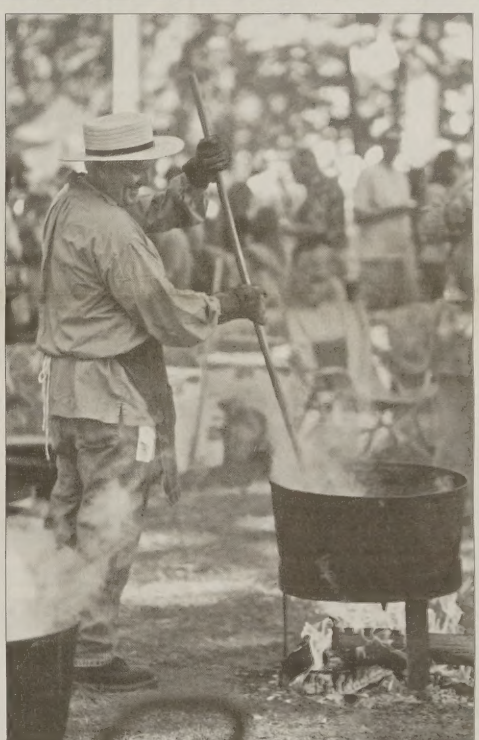
"I update Twitter and Instagram whenever I feel like it, usually daily," Espstein said. "I have the app on my phone, so whenever I'm on my phone, I check it."

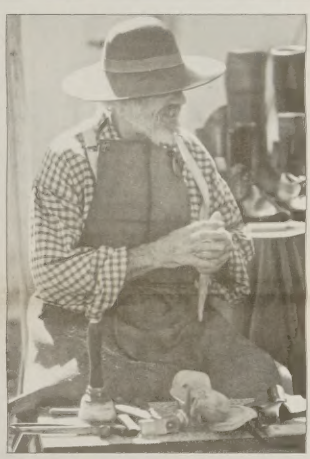
Neither site seems to be slowing down; in fact, most users have accounts on both social media platforms. It looks like, for the time being, Facebook is safe from the MySpace graveyard.

"There's nothing like Twitter or Instagram combined that would replace Facebook at this point," Epstein said.

▶400,000,000

The number of tweets sent a day. Twitter was founded in 2006 by Jack Dorsey. Twitter now has around 500,000,000 users.





PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

TAKING A BITE OUT OF THE PAST

Annual fall festival celebrates local hero and traditional food

ALEX EADY
Writer

As the excitement for fall begins to set in, Fort Wayne natives almost begin to crave the delightful foods and festivities that take place every year at the Johnny Appleseed Festival. This family friendly festivity held in commemoration of Johnny Appleseed includes an array of food vendors, artisan crafts and free activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Many festival goers attend this festival solely for the food. Homemade foods including kettle cooked caramel corn, massive grilled turkey legs, buffalo burgers and delectable apple dishes like the famous caramel dipped apple.

Because Johnny Appleseed was a vegetarian, there has been recent controversy raised over whether or not the festival should sell meat. In honor of Johnny Appleseed's vegetarianism, PETA members have proposed that the festival should be transitioned to all meatless food choices.

"I wouldn't go to the festival if it only had vegetarian food, I just love meat," Alexa Starn (9) said.

With this change in consideration for next years festival, a popular student volunteer chicken and dumplings stand may not make its annual appearance. This year, both band and Key Club members partnered to make this signature, handmade dish for festival goers.

"I had a lot of fun talking to people and being able to make new friends while working," band member Dustin Comer (11) said.

This comfort food draws huge crowds of people each year, who wait patiently in unbelievably long lines for their homemade chicken and dumplings, but the new plans for an all vegetarian spread at the festival may put the volunteer chicken and dumplings stand in jeopardy.

"I think that as always, it would be great to have a lot of options for vegetarian and vegan diets. However, I'm not sure that it is necessary to exclude meat entirely," former Key Club faculty advisor Kristen Padgett said.

Key Club member Maddie Scholl volunteered at last years Johnny Appleseed Festival and hopes to see the chicken and dumplings stand stay in business.

"I don't think making the food vegetarian or vegan is a good idea because a lot of people go to the festival just for the food," Scholl (11) said. "Plus, some of the profits we make from our stand goes back to support our school."

Even though the idea was denied for this year's festival, it still may go into consideration for next years Johnny Appleseed Festival, leaving no room for giant turkey legs nor chicken and dumplings.

"With all vegetarian food, I feel the festival just wouldn't be the same," Cromer said.

Although the food may not be the same next year, the same activities and demonstrations are held without fail every fall. Today, the festival renders the history of the 1800s era as well as the legacy of Jonny Appleseed. Demonstrators in traditional 1800s garb are seen throughout, telling stories, selling goods, or displaying their artisan skills for festival-goers to watch.

The combination of food and fun at the Johnny Appleseed festival, which pays homage to the legacy of a pioneer, is what makes this welcoming, open air festival a memorable event.

"The Johnny Appleseed festival is great because it shows the arts, history, and it adds a sense of community to Fort Wayne," Maddie Scholl said.

Left: Festival volunteer makes kettle corn the traditional way, in a large metal kettle, stirring with a long wooden stick. Top Right: Vendors craft traditional wooden sculptures by whittling figures of animals and people into blocks of wood with various crafting tools. Bottom Right: Apples dipped in caramel and chocolate are made by a festival workers in traditional colonial garb.

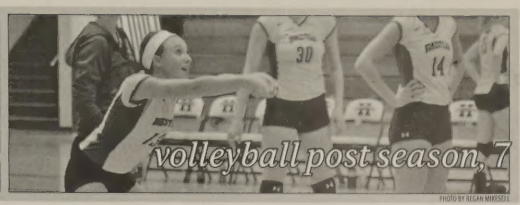


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Girls' soccer team claims first place in NHC

Strong senior leadership accelerates team past Carroll to earn the NHC Conference title

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Ari Nelson (12) competitively scuffles with an opposing Norwell player to go for the ball. Nelson is an important contributor to the team as a forward.

By Sydney Isroff
Writer

The undefeated girls' soccer team strode to another victory after their recent wins against DeKalb and Carroll. The girls prepare for their upcoming games hoping for another victory to continue their impressive start to the season.

"This team has come a long way in a short amount of time." Head Coach Katie Metz said. "We are continuing to work on specific aspects of our game that will allow us to be more dynamic on the field."

Top scorers consist of Allison Link (11), Ari Nelson (12), Kelsey Wendlandt (12), and Hannah Dolfuss (9). Even as a freshman, Dolfuss contributes to the team and is a leader. The girls build off of each other to improve their performances, no matter the grade level.

"Our goal this year is to defend our conference title." Link said.

The girls have already been preparing for the postseason, using their skills and hard work as assets.

Their endurance and mental attitude play hand in hand to prepare for their upcoming games. To train, the girls practice game like scenarios for preparation. Drills and other agility based workouts are also incorporated into the routine to prepare them for victory.

"Our recent wins were mostly all shutouts and were high scoring games for us." Link said. "Each game we win motivates us to do even better in the next game and fix mistakes we did in the last game."

The team came out on top in the rival game against Canterbury. With another victory over Carroll on September seventh, the team successfully took another conference win. Down 1-3 at half time, the girls stepped up their game in the second half winning 4-3.

As a team, the girls critique their abilities and focus on playing better together. The girls feel this ability to be able to come together as a team has translated into success on the field.

"As a captain I need to keep the team chemistry and work rate high." Wendlandt said. "I always try to stay positive with the girls and keep their spirits up."

The team captains consist of Madison Kloster (12), Emily Bley(12), Karly Gotschall (12) and Wendlandt. These girls work hard to fulfill the captain roll and be there for the underclassmen players.

"Our seniors have done a great job leading the team this year." Coach Metz said.

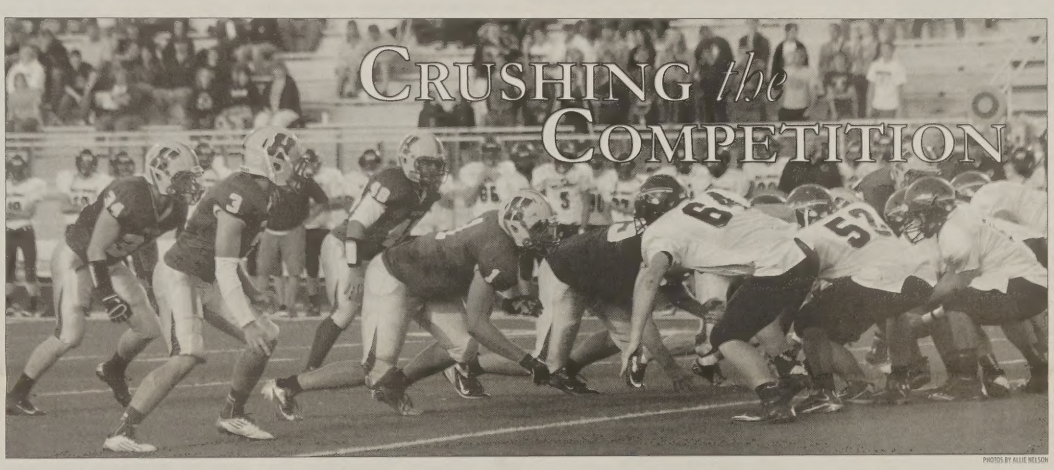
Noticeably, the girls have bonded more since last year and use this to their advantage. It has improved their intensity on the field and their want to try harder during practice. The girls tend to practice longer the day before they have a game to continuously get closer to their goal. They prepare expecting a game of full on intensity and always trying their best to come back with a win.

"We are all so close and have the best time joking around, but also have our most serious moments together as a team." Nelson said.

Remaining undefeated, the girls use this as motivation for their upcoming games.

"Being undefeated motivates us to stay undefeated and live up to our expectation from our coaches and to intimidate other schools." Link said.

"Each win motivates us more to make it to state and go undefeated in our conference." Wendlandt said.



PHOTOS BY ALLIE NELSON

Varsity football beats conference foes in blowout wins, focuses on ways to improve

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

Beginning conference play with big wins against East Noble, Columbia City, and Bellmont yet again affirms the varsity football team will remain a leading competitor in the NHC this season.

With a winning score of 65-21 against East Noble, the team showed improvements in all areas and played at a high level, but also faced adversity dealing with turnovers and penalty kicks.

"The team needs to become closer, and do the small things that matter on the field like blocking the right people and penalty calls. [Those things] could lose the game," Frank Martin (12) said.

The team plans to work out any miscommunications in further practices, but overall preparation for games has been excellent.

Though the team has not entirely been in sync, the offense and defensive players have separately been very successful. On offense, the athletes have been very balanced and able to distribute the ball to several key players. On defense, the players have shown their capabilities of being physical.

"We have what it takes to shut down other teams defensively and score enough to roughly average fifty points per game," captain Seth Coate (12) said.

In addition, Gunnar Goebel (10) has stepped up and is now the only starter in his grade. Goebel has excelled with interceptions and is foreseen to be a major asset in the future.

During the following game against Columbia City, the team gained experience playing in problematic weather for the first time. The uncomfortable temperature and rainfall posed as a conceivable distraction to the players, but they overcame the change in condition and came out with a win of 41-6.

"We were able to fight through it and play our game," Matt Skowronek (12) said.

Despite the downfalls, players, Isaac Griffith (12), Grayson Bastin (12), Martin, and Skowronek played key roles in the team's success in both games.

Succeeding the Colombia City game was a home game against Bellmont, and to no one's surprise, it concluded with a victory of 42-7.

"I was grateful to get four touchdowns with the support of my team," Martin said. "We have had a lot of good, hard practices, and it's preparing us for any challenge that gets put out in front of us. That's a big part of us running up the score board the way we do."

The Bellmont game was another one of the team's achievements on their way to the postseason.

"I think we're very confident with the people we have on the field and we trust that they will do their job, as they trust I will do the same," Coate said. "I think we just have to become more and more united as a unit."

Regardless of the fact that the team has stayed dedicated to focusing solely on their upcoming game, Carroll has always been one of the most significant games in the season. In contrast to previous years, this season's team is already showing the competence to be victorious in this game. Not only would a win from the Carroll game advance the team further into the post season, but it would also give the players assurance and motivation.

"We hope to come out and beat them from the first play and give them no room to hang around in the game," Skowronek said.

To this point, the team has showed an immense amount of potential, and thus have made elevated goals for the post season. Because the team has not won sectionals since 2006, the athletes feel an overwhelming pressure to achieve this goal.

"We plan on keeping focus throughout every game and not letting up," Coate said. Being tied for first in their conference has given the players reason to believe it can happen. Nevertheless, the team's main concern is the present.

"Every game you win causes the next game to become bigger," Head Coach Chad Zolman said. "We focus on the opponent right before us."

Kam Hladish (12) blocks the opponent, leaving Alex Etchison (12) the opportunity to run the ball.

Boys' tennis team overcomes midseason slump

Team aims to continue success in NHC Conference, looks to advance past sectional matches

By Jessica Tebben
Writer

Although the boys' tennis season is nearly halfway over, the team is working extremely hard to end the season as well as they started.

This season, the team started off well with a win against Concordia on Aug. 8. They hit a rough patch during the next few games, but they came back better than ever, winning three competitions in a row. In total, the Varsity team has won five of the nine competitions that they have attended, and the Junior Varsity team has won nine of twelve competitions.

Before a competition, the team warms up so that they can play as best as they can. After warm-ups, the team gathers for a team cheer. They wish each other luck and hope for the best as they part ways and play their individual matches. After each team member is finished playing, the support their teammates who still may be playing in a match. Once everyone is finished, they head home, hopefully proud of the game that they played.

"I feel like we have a better team than last year because we have more upperclassmen and varsity experience," Hussain Habib (11) said.

On Aug. 25, the boys' tennis team took part in the North Central Invitational where they placed eighth. They also attended the Carroll Invitational on Sept. 1 and came home pleased with the outcome. They competed in the Homestead Invitational on Sept. 15. Several talented individuals also competed in the invitational including the number one singles player in the state.

So far, both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams have proven themselves by having higher scores this season than they had at this point last season. The team has an optimistic outlook for this season and seasons to come, and their coaches are very supportive.

"We are working very hard this season, and we hope our hard work pays off," Head Coach Jim Shull said.

Other than improving their scores, which is an obvious goal for all sports teams, the members of the tennis team are hoping to go as far in the post season as possible after hopefully beating Canterbury at Sectionals. Another goal for the team is to do well in Conference. In order to fulfill their goals, they have to make sure to practice hard and look to their coaches for words of wisdom.

"We all just have to practice hard and listen to the coaches and take all the experience we can from competition to try and get better," Habib said.

For the boys on the tennis team, it is not solely about the competition, however. They enjoy being a part of the team because it helps them become better at working with others. They are also thankful for the lifelong friendships that they have made while being a part of the tennis team. They support each other whether they win or lose because they know that they can only get better.

"I like the friendships you make and playing some good tennis," Emmett Elizondo (11) said.

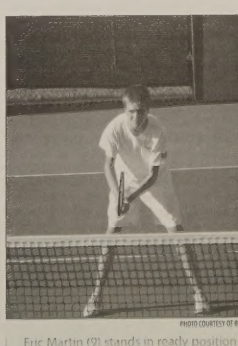


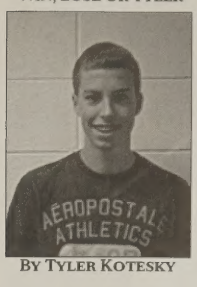
PHOTO COURTESY OF BAILEY WILLS

Eric Martin (9) stands in ready position to return a volley over the net.

Popularity of high school soccer fails to grow in tandem with fame of national team

It was a cool Monday night in the fall, so I decided to sit back and watch football, but not the kind of football you are thinking of. Often referred to as "football" or "futbol" in foreign nations (depending on what language you speak), it was the game of soccer that kept me entertained on a Monday night. The game featured two conference rivals fighting for a signature win to put them atop the NHC conference. The boys' soccer team faced DeKalb under the lights at the Pat Teagarden Field. As the rest of American sports fans paced frantically while worrying about the outcome of their fantasy football games, I sat back and enjoyed an intense soccer game.

WIN, LOSE OR TYLER



BY TYLER KOTESKY

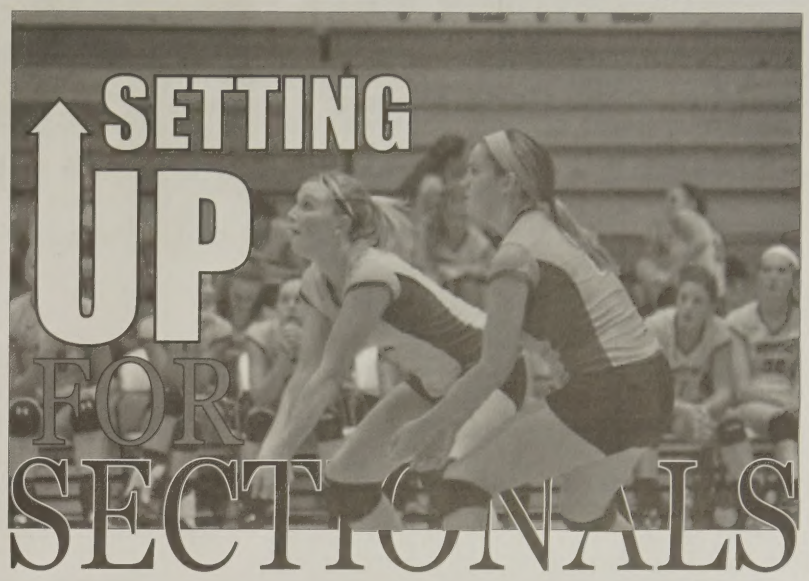
A similarly exhilarating match up in soccer last week featured the U.S. men's national team and the Jamaican national team. A sell-out crowd of almost 24,000 jubilant soccer fans poured into Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio on Sept. 11th to watch the big game. It was essentially a must-win for the U.S. after they lost 2-1 against a confident Jamaican team four days before. To qualify for the 2014 World Cup, the U.S. has to finish in the top 2 of this stage and then finish in the top 6 of the next qualifying tournament.

The race for the NHC title is a close one as well. With a win against DeKalb, the Spartans would take control of the lead. Chris Anderson (12) scored the first goal early in the game giving the Spartans the lead, but DeKalb answered very quickly with a goal of their own. After fierce play back and forth, the game was tied 2-2 at the end of regulation. Though many soccer matches end in ties even at the professional level, the game had to be decided in extra time, since it was a conference match up. After the first overtime period, the score remained 2-2. However, much to the Spartans' dismay, in the second overtime period, DeKalb scored twice to seal their victory.

Soccer is by far the most popular sport in the world, with an estimated fan base of about 3.5 billion people. Its popularity in the U.S. has often been much lower than overseas. Recently, however, many Americans have become optimistic about its rise in popularity. Within the last few years, crowds have grown at U.S. soccer games and brand new stadiums have been constructed. In 1994, surprisingly, the U.S. had the privilege of hosting the World Cup. Also, illustrious European soccer stars such as David Beckham and Thierry Henry have attempted to give a jumpstart to American soccer's popularity and join the MLS.

> "Obviously, football has not lacked in popularity, and rightfully so, but comparing football's popularity to soccer's is just comparing apples to oranges. Nevertheless, a student section of about 20 students at a home soccer game is anything but impressive."
>
> **TYLER KOTESKY**

Now, the question everyone wants to know, "Is soccer's popularity growing at Homestead?" In fact, I was wondering the same thing myself. Obviously, football has not lacked in popularity, and rightfully so, but comparing football's popularity to soccer's is just comparing apples to oranges. Nevertheless, a student section of about 20 students at a home soccer game is anything but impressive. Though the Spartans played a good game, they unfortunately lost to Dekalb in the second period of overtime. The answer to whether soccer's popularity has grown may be answered at the final home game of the season against Carroll or possibly in the postseason.



SETTING UP FOR SECTIONALS

Volleyball team optimistic about postseason after NHC victory

BY MATT BARBISH
Writer

The varsity volleyball team has continued to succeed against tough competition with the hopes of winning an NHC and Sectional title.

With a loss against top notch Rossville in a tournament, the team dropped its record to 9-7 (5-4 in non-tournament games) on the season. However, they are 3-0 in NHC play and had a successful victory over Columbia City.

The last few weeks have consisted of key wins and a few tough losses.

On Sept. 4th, the team triumphed at home over the Marion Giants in straight games, winning the three games by scores of 25-14, 25-12 and 25-0. In the final game, which the Spartans won 25-0, Jessica Kampfe (11) served the entire game uncontested, not losing a point once. It may have been the first time one player has served an entire game in Spartan volleyball history. The following Wednesday, the Spartans dropped a non-league contest at home to the Huntington North Vikings, losing three games to one. With the loss, the team's record dropped to 4-4 on the 2012 campaign.

The team then traveled to Columbia City to clash with the Eagles in a NHC match on Thursday, Sept. 13th. The Eagles came into the match with an impressive record of 7-2, but the team was not intimidated. They defeated Columbia City in three straight games and came away with an awe-inspiring win. The Spartans won by scores of 27-25, 25-23 and 25-17, dominating in the third game on to a victory in their conference opener. With this win they started the conference season off strong, with an initial record of 1-0.

The Spartans have found success due to the great camaraderie of the team. All of the teammates are supportive of each other and truly are like a family.

> "We are really close as a team on and off the court."
>
> **JENNY REDDEN (11)**
> *Varsity Hitter*

"We are really close as a team on and off the court," Jenny Redden (11) said. Because the group is so tight-knit, the sky is the limit for the team.

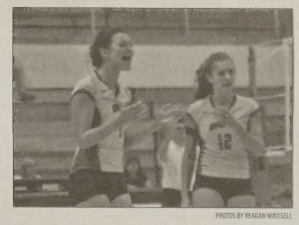
During the weekend, the Spartans traveled to Lafayette Jefferson High School for an invitational tournament. In the tournament, matches consisted of the best-of-three-format, meaning that one would need two games to win a match, rather than a best-of-five-format in order to save time.

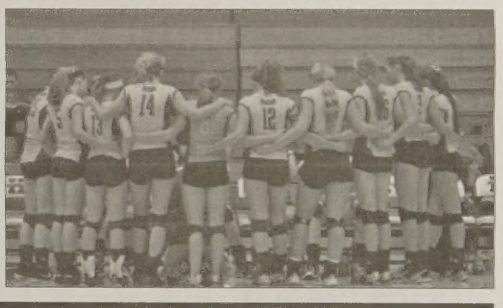
In their first game early that morning, they defeated Clinton Prairie two games to none. However, in the second game, they were eliminated from the tournament by Rossville by a score of two games to none. Rossville was a high quality opponent and the Spartans took no shame in the loss. The Spartans' main goal of winning a sectional title remains intact and hopes are high for the Spartans on doing so.

The Spartans are headed once again by Coach Kent Mitchell. After last year's disappointing season, their 2010 Sectional Title seems in the distant past. However, they have continued to improve and are enthusiastic about the 2012 season.

"We want to win sectionals and progress from there," Redden said. Their season continues to roll along with success and high hopes. The postseason will not start until mid-October, but until then, the team remains focused on improving.

They host rival Carroll on Sept. 27th, which is bound to be an exciting match up between two NHC contenders. The team's closeness both on and off the court will carry them throughout the rest of the year and make ultimate success possible.





PHOTOS BY REAGAN WIKTSELL

Above: Liza Yurovich (12) pops up the rest of the team as Nicole Schneider (12) positions herself for the next point. Right: The entire varsity volleyball team huddles to strategize before the match.

REGULAR SEASON RESULTS

v. Columbia City	v. DeKalb	v. East Noble
0 - 3	1 - 3	0 - 3

Boys' cross country team nears final meets of season

Team strives to improve individual times for advancement to State as postseason approaches

BY HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

Being well into the season, the boys' Cross Country team has gained necessary exposure to set key goals and take advantage of the new talent this year.

The team recently participated in the Purdue High School Invitational, the Indiana State Preview, and the Marion Invitational. These meets initially proved the strong capabilities of this year's team.

They placed second out of ten teams at the Purdue Invite, and six of the runners, Blake Harris (12), Sam Moore (11), Max Dvorak (12), Ben Haberly (12), Tyler Koteskey (11), placed in the top thirty finishers with an impressive eighth place finish from Brayden Law (9).

Though the weather was not ideal at the State Preview Meet, the athletes conquered the significant meet with a placement of fifth out of twenty-four challenging teams. The team improved scores within their previous times and advanced past opponents that were originally ranked ahead of them in the State Cross Country Poll.

Those who did not take part in the Indiana State Preview meet participated in the Marion Invitational, which was held on the same day.

"We had somewhat of an underdog squad," Will Northquist (12) said. "Our main varsity was at the state preview, [but] we managed to place well despite this." Regardless of the lack of athletes, Cameron Dark (12) finished in first place for the team in his Varsity debut.

In addition to this year's set of strong runners, newcomer Law has set expectations at an all-time high for the remainder of the season.

"Brayden is already our top runner and probably will stay there," Max Silcox (12) said. "He has an unbelievable amount of talent." Not only does Law hold the top place on the team, he is ranked first out of every freshman in the state. Running consistent times, Law is anticipated to be an essential component on this year's team, as well as many years to come.

"[He] has already destroyed the freshman record, and by the end of his senior year, I guarantee he has every cross country and distance track record," Silcox said.

Moreover, the team is looking to maximize their potential from each individual's talent at the next meet, The Flash Rock Invitational. This meet is crucial to the team's success, as it will determine the top twenty-five teams in the state. Working with one of the fastest courses in Indiana, the runners are primarily working towards speed progression.

The team's patience will also play a key factor in the boys' upcoming success.

"[Head Coach Ian Wilson] holds us back until the time is right, but it is still hard to motivate yourself early in the season," Silcox said. With this in mind, the athletes will need to keep in check every aspect of their performances to achieve their high set goals. Ultimately, the team desires to win Conference, Sectionals, and Regionals, with a focal point of advancing passed Carroll at State.

MULTIPLE MEETS

SEPT. 1
Team 1: State Preview
Team 2: Marian Invite

SEPT. 15
Team 1: Flashrock
Team 2: West Noble Invite

SEPT. 22
Team 1: Culver
Team 2: New Haven Classic

WHAT (IN THE WORLD) CAN WE EAT?

PINT N' SLICE ◆ CLASSIC AMERICAN PIZZA

"Pint & Slice" is a Pub and Pizza joint located in downtown Fort Wayne. As a student in high school, I was only able to experience the 'slice' half of the menu, but the pizza 'slice' was not half bad. For only five dollars -four dollars and eighty cents - I enjoyed a large slice of pepperoni pizza and a fountain drink. The pizza had a generous cheese to sauce ratio, and, subsequently, tasted much better than the average slice of Pizza . The ingredients were quality, and it was served fresh. Though the pizza was hardly gourmet, it provided a unique and full flavor. They offer almost every - conventional - pizza type invented, so the variety is ample for those who dig it.

As for the rest of you, however, the food is only part of the restaurant experience. The service, for example, was some of the quickest I have ever seen. After the order, it took the cashier literally five seconds to place my plate of pizza where I could take it, and only about another fifteen to ring me up. It wasn't the friendliest service - not even sure if I saw a smile -, but something has to give for such efficiency. Overall a four out of five.

The last ingredient to the restaurant recipe is the atmosphere. The front room is an open, crowded diner with an open kitchen in the back. Nothing special except for a raised table in front for the attention seekers both in and out of the restaurant to see them. Unlike most pizzeria's however, one can leave and go up a flight of stairs to a spacious and decorated hang-out area. The walls are lined with various artwork, and the back of the room has three windows occupying the entire wall. Needless to say, boh rooms amply lighted in both natural and artificial light.

Keep in mind this could have just been, really, bad luck, but there was time for three songs to play while I ate, and they were, in order; Friday, by Rebecca Black; Call Me Maybe, by Carly Rae Jepsen; and What Makes you Beautiful, by One Direction. Yes, it is indeed, one of the wort playlists of all time. Again, it could have been bad luck, but because of this I am going to have give the atmosphere a three out of five. Overall this pizzeria gets a three out of five. It's fun to go to if you're in town, but don't make it a special trip.
--Devin Wright

PHOTOS BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Left: The restaurant has a second-story lounge. Right: The brick exterior creates an old-school look.

ADDRESS: 816 S. CALHOUN ST.
RATING:

MENCHIE'S ◆ INTL.

Fort Wayne's latest frozen yogurt franchise hits the mark in taste and affordability. Located off West Jefferson near Covington Plaza, Menchie's offers an array of yogurts and toppings sure to satisfy any customer.

Menchie's colorful atmosphere is quirky and fun. Upon entering, customers are greeted by a swirl of colors and whimsical cartoons. Seating is available in the main room adjacent to the yogurt bar; however, a partitioned side room also provides an ideal venue for scheduled meetings and birthday parties.

Customers are encouraged to visit the yogurt bar, filling a traditional or waffle bowl with as many yogurts and toppings as desired. And at $0.47 per ounce, making one-of-a-kind yogurt creations is both effortless and affordable.

Menchie's boasts a slew of yogurt varieties, frequently shuffling the fourteen flavors featured on site. These frozen sweets are smooth and delicious, bearing a striking resemblance to the real-life flavors they emulate.

Flavors range from "fresh-baked snickerdoodle" to "blue raspberry tart," running the gamut from sweet to savory. Gluten-free, vegan, and no high fructose corn syrup options are also available, making Menchie's yogurt accessible to everyone, including customers with dietary restrictions.

After making a yogurt selection, customers may garnish their culinary creation at the toppings bar. The bar's selection of finishings is extensive--nuts, candies, cereals, fruits, sprinkles, creams and syrups are available, making mix-and-match possibilities endless.

At the check-out counter, customers weigh their yogurt bowls, pay, and are told to "have a smiley day" by one of Menchie's employees. As an added bonus, patrons receive one of six collectable Menchie's 3-D puzzle with their purchase.

Menchie's frozen yogurt is top-notch, offering a dining experience that's sure to please both your palate and wallet. With delectable yogurts and customer service that can't be beat, a treat from Menchie's is sure to bring a smile to any face.
--Alison Mansfield

PHOTOS BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Far Left: Menchies features a frozen yogurt bar with various unique and Left: The dessert stop also has numerous cookie and candy toppings to add on to a cup of yogurt.

RATING:
ADDRESS: 6404 W JEFFERSON BLVD.

EL CALIENTE ◆ CUBAN

Enjoy the taste of Cuba without even leaving town. Caliente shares its heritage with an authentic Cuban menu.

The florescent colored building with outdoor dining cannot be missed on E. State Blvd. The Latin culture is apparent from the outside in.

The parking lot was a bit of a trial to find, because it was hidden behind the establishment. Along with this spacing issue, the interior could only seat six small parties. The building was tight and cramped in several areas.

Despite that, Caliente was definitely a welcoming environment for families. Friendly restaurant owners, Gus and Yali Rodriguez, made every customer feel important and also recognized past ones. They took their time to socialize with diners and sat down with them.

This eatery had wallets rejoicing all over due to its low price range. Out of the entire menu, meal deals had the highest costs but managed to remain under $10. Meals also came with two side dishes of choice and a drink, so the price paid was no waste.

The Cuban Sandwich meal, like all of their food, was prepared right in front of customers. The tendered pork was accompanied with provolone cheese, mustard and pickles. Mayonnaise, onions and jalapeños were optional. The sandwich was moist on the inside and crispy on the outside. The Cuban was a satisfying take on the standard ham sandwich.

A staple to Caliente's dishes was the Cuban bread. They used a plancha, a sandwich presser, to toast the bread on the bottom as well as the top. Fusing the tastes together, it created a mouth-watering outcome. The two side dishes were a Spanish tamale and french fries. The meat mixed inside the tamale was dry compared to the main entree, and the french fries were a mediocre addition.

The Tuna Sandwich was simple with a tuna, banana pepper, mayo and cheese combo but had no distinct flavor. Nevertheless, the signature bread was still gratifying.

Caliente included a breakfast selection and hardly catered to vegetarians with limited options of meatless soup and burrito. However, each item's serving portion was relatively large considering the price.

The Rodriguez's clearly showed their passion at Caliente by connecting with customers and preparing fresh food. The homey restaurant was an ideal place an easy, casual stop.
--William Ngo

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM NGO

Above: Mr. Rodriguez, a Cuban native, interacts with customers. Top: The restaurant has earned fame for its Cuban Sandwich, which tastes remarkably authentic.

ADDRESS: 1123 E STATE BLVD.
RATING:

SAKURA ◆ TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CUISINE

When looking for a cultural dining experience in the bustling metropolis that is Fort Wayne, Sakura is the place to be. Located on West Jefferson at Time Corners, this authentic Japanese restaurant serves fresh sushi as well as other traditional cuisine. The atmosphere is intimate and inviting, and the staff is knowledgeable and happy to assist.

The main dining area consists of family-friendly booths for a quiet, cozy meal. The pinnacle of seating at Sakura, however, is a small area to the right of the waiting area. This curtained spot offers a secluded taste of Japanese tradition; customers must even remove their shoes before entering. Visitors should plan ahead to reserve this prime spot.

The menu boasts a wide array of inventive sushi options, including high-quality raw fish and eel as well as vegetarian options. There's an extensive selection of succulent hibachi grilled entrees for non-sushi lovers. For the less adventurous, try the tangy teriyaki chicken for a meal that's sure to satisfy. While the Miso soup did not stand out, the side salad of fresh greens and a zesty ginger dressing certainly made up for it.

The presentation is a hit or miss depending on the meal ordered. The teriyaki chicken arrives complete with a flower made of rice and broccoli, while the sushi is simply arranged geometrically.

Definitely swing by the sushi bar to catch a viewing of trained Japanese chefs as they carefully prepare the sushi, ensuring the meal is a fresh as can be before it is brought to the table.

The menu lies in the middle of the price spectrum, with the average entrée about $10-15, though that includes the soup and salad; however, the portions are large and can be taken home for another meal. The service is swift, making Sakura a great place for a quick yet still sit-down meal.

Sakura's is Fort Wayne's little piece of Japan, a cozy, little-known hotspot of flavorful cuisine and culture. This fine culinary experience should be on any foodie's list. Plus they don't judge customers who can't use chopsticks.
--Laura Zweig

PHOTOS BY LAURA ZWEIG

Above: Sakura boasts authentic Japanese meals, such as the teriyaki chicken, which is served in an intricate formation on the plate. Left: The salmon bar, located within the sushi bar occupied by multiple skilled chefs, attracts customers through its fresh appeal.

RATING:
ADDRESS: 528 W JEFFERSON BLVD.

THE SPARTANA

NEWS The debut of the Survey Series, a feature based on a survey administered to students, offers insight into school spirit. 1

OPINION The Left and Write addresses the issues presented by the two presidential candidates in their first head-to-head debate. 3

LIFE Students' efforts in campaigning for James Chen (12) to win Homecoming King pay off as he takes the title. 5

SPORTS The boys' soccer team begins the postseason with a commanding Sectional championship win but falls at Regionals. 7

FEATURE The opening of the new Kroger Marketplace offers students opportunities to purchase unique goods and find employment. 8

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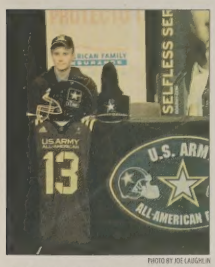


PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

Chris Podlaski (12) earns recognition as the first Spartan Alliance Band member to be selected as U.S. All-American.

Band member receives national honor

Chris Podlaski (12) chosen to perform at U.S. Army All-American bowl

By Ethan Yde
Writer

The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band is one of the most prestigious marching bands in the country. Until the nomination and subsequent acceptance into the band of Christopher Podlaski (12) this year, no HHS student had ever been selected to participate.

"The band is run by people from the army band and from DCI (Drum Corps International)," Podlaski said. "They select nominees from all over the country to march in the half-time show in the All American Bowl Game in San Antonio, Texas."

Podlaski currently plays the trumpet for the Spartan Alliance Band. He was one of the 125 students in the nation chosen to perform in this year's band. He applied for the coveted position months before with the hope that he would be selected from the other 1,300 students who auditioned.

"The application is just like a college application," Podlaski said. "You must submit a personal message of why you want to join the band, one video of you marching and another video of you playing a song to impress the judges."

The week before the performance, members of the band must endure rigorous practice in the song and marching techniques. This session is about the only thing that they will have time to do for the entire duration of the trip, but as a trumpet connoisseur and marching enthusiast, Podlaski is excited nonetheless.

"We have to learn the entire marching band performance in about a week," Podlaski said, "so it will take up all of the trip. All expenses are paid, and the hotel is provided."

The ceremony at which Podlaski received the honor took place in the auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 4. Men currently enlisted in the U.S

▶ SEE 'BAND MEMBER,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Tech Director named hero in education

By Darby Cook
Writer

Former SACS teacher and current technology director Mike Gorman was announced as one of Microsoft's 365 heroes in education.

Gorman received this prestigious honor completely unexpectedly.

"It was not even on my radar," Gorman said. "I was very surprised. . . I felt honored that I was recognized on a global platform. I also was humbled because I realize there are so many outstanding educators who sometimes go unrecognized that have done so much more than I have. In fact, you have to look no farther than Southwest Allen to find educators who make a difference each and every day."

Gorman has affected hundreds of students over the years. Before assuming the role of Technology Director, he cooperatively instructed the Woodside Middle School ISB Tech classes that students were required to take all three years of middle school. The objective of these classes, which are still taught at WMS, is to integrate contemporary technologies into students' curriculum.

"I had Mr. Gorman in 6th, 7th and 8th grade," Jamie Baer (12) said. "He was a phenomenal teacher who taught me skills that have a real-world application."

As a result of his tremendous efforts to educate young people, Gorman is the winner of numerous awards, including SACS's Teacher of The Year Award, Indiana's Semi-Finalist Teacher of the Year Award, US Air Force Association

▶ SEE 'HERO,' PAGE 2

Survey shows lack of student attendance at athletic events

By Priscilla Lin
Writer

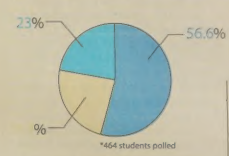
As Homecoming Week has come and gone, students and faculty are questioning the extent of school spirit harbored at Homestead. In a survey conducted in all study hall and seminar classes, 78% of students reported that Homestead has good school spirit. However, meager attendance at varsity sporting events suggest that school spirit is on the steady decline.

Out of 37 varsity home football, volleyball, tennis and soccer games, only 22.9% of students said they have attended nine or more games. Of the students at the football games, observers say that a majority are more interested in socializing than supporting the school. Varsity cheerleader Jessica Miller (11) said that while some students

▶ SEE 'SPIRIT,' PAGE 2

SURVEY SERIES: WHAT STUDENTS SAID

When asked how many athletic events they have attended this year, the students replied:



The break-down:
- Exactly 21.4% reported no attendance of sporting events
- Approximately 50% said the success of an athletic team influenced their attendance

Beloved substitute teacher passes away

By Joe Laughlin
Editor-In-Chief

INSIDE Students and faculty members offer their tributes to Peter Greenhow, Page 2

Pastor Peter Greenhow, a substitute teacher who frequently served at Homestead, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Lutheran Hospital.

Greenhow reportedly suffered a fatal heart attack. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sharon Greenhow, five siblings, three children and eight grandchildren.

Born in Ontario, Canada, Greenhow was an avid cyclist and professional landscape architect. He also served as an interim pastor.

Students adored Greenhow's presence in the classroom. He was a compassionate, generous man who treated all his students with kindness and respect. He mentored and befriended all whom he encountered.

He is remembered for offering the students entertaining puzzles at the beginning of each class. He encouraged all students to expand their mindset when approaching abstract problems.

He also excited students with entertaining anecdotes, which ranged from a cross-country journey to the bargaining of a car for a $1 purchase.

His unexpected death shocked family, friends, faculty and students. All who knew him will mourn the loss of a truly remarkable man.

District schools face record enrollments

Overcrowding forces schools to maximize classroom space

By Hamna Qureshi
Writer

Overcrowding in the district is becoming a prevalent problem. Many schools are getting student enrollments that are higher than ever before. Elementary schools such as Aboite have increasing student populations but little space to accommodate all the students.

"I think enrollment is a problem district-wide," Greg Lobdell, principal of Aboite, said. "I don't have a lot of confidence about adding new classrooms."

The ALPHA classes are especially crowded at Aboite with class sizes reaching the upper twenties. There are two fourth grade ALPHA classes at Aboite, which have 55 students between them– 27 in one class and 28 in the other. A fifth grade ALPHA class last year had a class size of 30 students.

Aboite's administration is forced to be creative and find space within the school to accommodate all the incoming students. Aboite's multipurpose room was converted into two new classrooms, and the special needs room was converted into a Kindergarten classroom.

"(The challenges) deal with facilities," Lobdell said. "Lots of activities are impacted (by the lack of space)."

The conversion of the multipurpose room into two classrooms has been a problematic

▶ SEE 'OVERCROWDING,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

At Aboite Elementary, rising enrollments pressed administrators for space to accomodate students, forcing two fourth grade classes into one multipurpose room.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED
Eighteen seniors were named National Merit Commended Students: Wyatt Arnold, Victoria Barnard, Changhao Bi, Steven Cooklev, Cameron Dark, William Davis, Monica Dollive, Katherine Haskell, Seth Higginbotham, Jordan Jenkins, Paul Kusisto, Joseph Laughlin, Jiwon Park, Colton Shaffer, Katherine Troutman, Sarah Yde, Maurina Zimmerman and Laura Zweig.

SENIOR YEARBOOK PHOTOS
In order to appear in the senior portion of the yearbook, all seniors must be photographed by Prestige Portraits. To fulfill the requirements of the dress code for these photos, girls must wear a nice blouse or sweater and boys must wear a collared shirt and tie. Dec. 7, 2012 is the deadline to be photographed for the senior section of the yearbook. See the SACS website for information on making an appointment at Prestige Portraits.

NO SCHOOL FRIDAY
Friday, Oct. 19 is a day off school for students due to Parent Teacher conferences. Parents will be able to meet with students' teachers to evaluate and assess the first nine weeks of the school year. Students' progress will be analyzed and shared with parents who signed up for conferences via the school website. Parents, however, can no longer schedule these conferences via internet.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING DRIVE
Students traveling to Costa Rica in June are holding a fundraiser for their trip by collecting aluminum cans in from 3-8 p.m. Thursday and 8-11 a.m. Friday the parking lot next to Door 32. The aim of this fundraiser is to help support a cleaner plant while supporting our students striving to learn about other cultures, as they will experience this summer while living amongst and interacting with natives in Cuba.

The Final Piece of the Puzzle

in loving memory of

Mr. Peter Greenhow

"Everybody responded positively to his enthusiasm. He was a great example of how when someone enjoys what he does, that joy is infectious."
HOWARD JANKOWSKI
Former English Teacher

"Mr. Greenhow and I always had the most peculiar, abstract, but relevant conversations about whatever he was teaching."
KEENAN DOYLE ('11)
Former Student

"Mr. Greenhow was an inspiring man, and his anecdotes will live on."
ADAM BRENEMAN (12)
Current Student

"He was a good man. He always did his best to keep the class entertained."
ERIC SHEPPER ('12)
Former Student

"Every time I saw him, we'd say hello and smile at each other. It's crazy what a smile can do."
ELLE WHITE (12)
Current Student

"Everytime I'd walk into class and see he was the substitute, I'd be excited. He was aways so sweet and kind to we students."
ANNA DENNING
Former Student

"Students and teachers all enjoyed working with Mr. Greenhow. We'll miss him dearly."
BEKKI VAIL
Biology Teacher

"We all cherished his presence in the classroom. His positivity and compassion did not go unnoticed. We extend our condolences to his family."
SPARTANA STAFF

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The band will receive a new Astroturf practice field to replace its current grass field located near the baseball diamonds.

Status: False - Contrary to percolating rumors concerning the Spartan Alliance Band's prospective acquisition of an Astroturf practice field, both of the band's directors, Steve Barber and Brad Wadkins, have confirmed such an extravagant facility is not being considered at this time.

Students rumored that the band will receive a complete Astroturf field to supplant its current dirt field located adjacent to the baseball diamonds; however, no field will be built at this time.

As the current problem—that of billowing dust that irritates the lungs and eyes—remains unchecked and the band's drilling continues to agitate the ground, the question evoked by this false prophecy begs answering.

The band members and varsity athletes have long endured the thick grass and irritating dirt prevalent in athletic facilities outside of the football stadium, conditions conducive to discomfort and possible injury.
--Ryan Boylan

▶ BAND MEMBER CONTINUED FROM 1

Army presented the accolades to him. These same men were in the cafeteria promoting enlistment in the armed forces.

"The whole [Homestead] band, the servicemen, the All-American Marching Band representatives and the school administration attended the ceremony to see Chris and be a part of his accomplishment," Steve Barber, band director, said.

PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

Above: Podlaski receives a warm-up jacket from two men of the Army.

▶ HERO CONTINUED FROM 1

Indiana's STEM Educator of the Year Award and Fort Wayne's Education Innovator of the Year Award.

"I believe that education is a process that can be both exciting and engaging," Gorman said. "As a teacher, helping others see this opportunity is most rewarding."

As Homestead's technology director, Gorman is excited about expanding students' use of technology to enhance their learning experience.

"It is technology that will allow SACS students to be engaged in authentic learning, therefore making connections beyond the walls of their classrooms."
MIKE GORMAN
Technology Director

"I believe that learning how to leverage technology upon a strong content foundation and an essential 21st century skill base will give our students a competitive edge," Gorman said. "It is technology that will allow SACS students to be engaged in authentic learning, therefore making connections beyond the walls of their classrooms. We must go beyond the basic curriculum, and technology allows teachers in classrooms to focus in areas of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. It is the acquisition of these skills that will allow our students to be successful in a highly competitive global economy."

▶ OVERCROWDING CONTINUED FROM 1

situation. Activities such as the book fair that were previously held there have been forced to move. The book fair was moved to the library, but the library was closed for the week because the book fair took up too much space.

"There's been talk (about expanding Aboite)," Lobdell said.

There are not enough classrooms to keep up with the increasing numbers of students. Lobdell said the problem may get so severe that they may need to utilize trailers as extra classrooms. The only possible additions to the school would be more Kindergarten classrooms.

However, expansion in other parts of the school is not possible due to conflicts with the adjoining road and the playgrounds that surround the school. These limitations on expansion are putting even greater pressure on administrators and teachers to find new ways to maximize all available space.

"We've lost a lot of flexibility," Lobdell said.

Teachers are also being affected by the large class sizes. While they would prefer smaller, more-focused groups, they must accommodate all the students in the room effectively.

"You have to use your space wisely and set up designated areas so there's enough space for everyone to spread out and not get distracted by others," Megan Daehnke, first grade teacher, said. "You also have to determine how many students can work in small groups so they're a manageable size."

The class sizes are affecting students' learning experiences as well. They are not receiving as much personalized attention because of the large amount of students in the classroom. Dispite increasing class size, teachers continue to relentlessly create the greatest learning opportunities for all students.

"The hardest thing about having more students is that you can't work with them as closely as often. Your students also don't get to know one another as intimately as they do in a smaller group," Daehnke said.

Daehnke says that her ideal class size is about eighteen to twenty students. This size would allow her to work more closely with students who are struggling as well as with students who can handle a more advanced curriculum.

However, because the problems currently presented by the limited facilities remain insurmountable, Aboite and other schools that already have or soon will face these complications are forced to extort all means available to making classroom instruction as comfortable and efficient as possible.

"(The adjustment) is finding ways to help people," Lobdell said.

▶520
approximate current total enrollment at Aboite Elementary School

▶ SPIRIT CONTINUED FROM 1

participate, others don't come to watch the football.

"A lot of the kids who come to the football games actually cheer and are really there for support," Miller said. "But a lot of other kids are there for more of the social aspect instead."

Despite the less than encouraging statistics, athletic director Joe Updegrove remains positive, insisting that he's seen both attendance and morale increasing. According to Updegrove, Homestead's spirit is more than adequate.

"Homestead has as much or more (spirit) than most (other schools)," Updegrove said. "I have attended SACS events and other surrounding schools ... our fan base is solid with a lot of positives."

Beyond athletic attendance, participation during dress up days, such as those organized for Homecoming Week, also lags.

According to the recent student survey, only 9.1% of students participateded in all five of the dress up days, while 19% reported not having participated at all. Students attribute this lack of effort to their disinterest in the various themes of Homecoming Week.

"I don't want to waste my morning going to school looking like a fool," Kristina Relja (12) said. "If they had better theme days I would participate. A lot of people don't participate because they think it's a joke."

Student Government, aware of this situation, has vowed to try and reinstate the school spirit. In the future, the Student Government is hoping to provide students with more opportunity for input regarding the spirit days. Junior Student Government President Dashaen Jordan (11) believes that when it comes to school spirit, there's always room for improvement.

"I think that both [student devotion and participation] should increase throughout the student body," Jordan said. "We all should have and show excitement and pride for our school."

While a lack school spirit has been a recent problem, some grads say that there has always been something amiss when evaluating Homestead pride.

"[When I attended Homestead] there was very limited school spirit," said Bryan Kelley ('04). "About one-third of the students were very active and participated in every event, while the other two-thirds could care less (sic)."

The numbers have only further diminished as 87.2% of students opted out of this year's Homecoming dance, choosing instead to participate in social functions off of school grounds. Despite the apathetic attitudes that most Homestead students express towards school spirit, the alumni of Homestead hope that the future will hold increased opportunity for participation.

"Looking back, I wish there was more effort given from the students," Kelley said. "High school would have been much more enjoyable with a little participation."

"A lot of the kids who come to football games actually cheer and are really there for support. But a lot of other kids are there for more of the social aspect."
JESSICA MILLER (11)
Cheerleader

PERCENTAGES

13.4 attended the dance

19 never participated in dress-up day themes

50 said a team's success affects attendance

78 determined the students have school spirit

SOURCE: SURVEY SERIES

Students prepare for PSAT exams

By Tessa Lutz
Writer

Oct.17 is the national day for all sophomore and junior high school students to take the PSAT–no makeup dates are available.

The PSAT is given out by the College Board and stands for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test scores are the deciding factor for juniors as to whether they are eligible to be National Merit Scholars, a scholarship program linked with the PSAT. The primary test giver is guidance counselor Tom Quigley.

"PSAT is a preliminary, or practice, SAT," Quigley said. "The more times you do something, the better you will get at it; the more time you practice free throws, the more baskets you're going to make."

The College Board website has tools designed to help students study for the test. The website has scores from previous times taking the PSAT, the problems missed as well as the right answers. Career planning and college searches are also offered to enable students to know their options.

To qualify for the National Merit Scholarship, a score of at least 200 is required to be commended as a National Merit Scholar with a chance to be a semi-finalist. The semi-finalist cut is based on how many students in Indiana take the test and how many Hoosiers are commended. The semi-finalist cut usually ranges from a score of 210 to a score of 215.

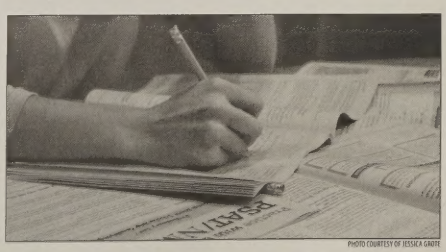


PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA GROTE

Above: Veronika Grote (11) studies a PSAT practice exam in preparation for Wednesday's exam. Her score on actual test might create scholarship opportunities.

Homestead's class of 2013 had a record number of students commended, 27. Out of Homestead's 27 students, nine were deemed semi-finalists with a score over 211. Bishop Luers, Canterbury and Snider are the only other schools in Fort Wayne to have any students who qualified to be semi-finalists. Guidance counselor Amy Hamilton handles the National Merit Scholarship program within Homestead. She has never seen so many commended in her eleven years at the school.

"Homestead is right up there with the other top schools," Hamilton said. "Carmel has 48 commended, but remember they have a class of 4500 students."

Hamilton handles the application process, she finishes the school portion, adds the semi-finalists' grades and includes any recommendation letters. If the students' SAT score are of the same caliber as their PSAT score, they have a chance to be National Merit Scholar finalists. Hamilton is hopeful about Homestead's 2014 class. Laura Lauderman (11) is starting to look at her college options and SAT and ACT dates.

"I'm hoping to do well; it'd be great to qualify for a National Merit Scholarship," Lauderman said. "I need as much help paying for college as I can get."

THE SPARTANA
STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2012-2013

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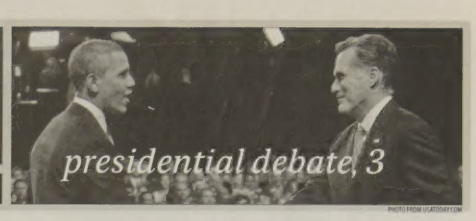

presidential debate, 3

PHOTO FROM USATODAY.COM

LEFT AND WRITE • First Presidential debate reactions

Romney lacks platform to properly debate

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Editor

As if they weren't under enough stress, the pressure placed on candidates to do well during the first debate of the election season is enormous. Presidential hopefuls must come out swinging if they expect to win, and there is no question that former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney did just that. Only, he swung too hard.

In his eagerness to go tit for tat with President Obama, Romney overstepped his bounds and disregarded the decorum of debate. He repeatedly interrupted not only his opponent, but also the moderator, whose only job was to direct the course of the discussion. Romney's overall performance brought to mind that of a Jack Russell terrier that wasn't getting enough attention, constantly bounding from topic to topic, not satisfied unless he got the last word. Romney and his supporters may think that he won the debate, but more often than not those last words he tried so hard to get in turned out to be wrong.

Take, for example, Romney's claim that there are 23 million people out of work. To get that figure, he is including people who have jobs. These people aren't destitute, as he would have you believe, their circumstances have only changed some since the recession. The people he is counting as unemployed were once full-time employees and are now half-time, or they are underemployed, meaning that they have jobs, just not as high-paying as those they used to have.

Another of Romney's points he has hit hard is his maxim that he will not increase taxes on the wealthy nor raise taxes on the middle class, but somehow also plans to increase the defense budget, all while reducing the deficit. Regardless of the fact that his goals are contradictory, he has also failed to deliver any specifics on how he will achieve them. When pressed, all he says is that he will "have to work with Congress" to work out the details. If he is trying to seem bipartisan, he is just coming across as an ill-managed and weak executor.

Reducing the deficit has always been a top priority, and it is something Obama has taken very seriously. Romney, however, has gone to new levels of ridiculousness to achieve a balanced budget. His criterion for lowering the deficit is as follows: if it is not worth borrowing money from China, it gets cut. That is the most ludicrous measuring stick imaginable. By those standards, no social program would exist at all.

If that wasn't enough, after making that statement, Romney said that one of the first things to get cut will be funding to PBS. Public programs like Sesame Street, which exist solely for the benefit of the public, will be the first on the chopping block while America's defense forces are unnecessarily strengthened. There is no common sense to that policy.

Romney's performance during the debate may have been commendable, but his message left much to be desired. However much he may try to shoot down the president, he cannot deny that much of his platform stands on shaky ground at best. If America elects Romney come November, there is one thing of which the citizens can be sure: life is about to get much worse for everyone but the privileged 1%.

PHOTO FROM BBLIN.COM

Romney is the right candidate for America

By Devin Wright
Writer

Presidential candidate Mitt Romney came out swinging for the first presidential debate against President Barack Obama.

After the introduction of Romney's five point plan, he shot down Obama's accusation that his economic plan would have $5 trillion tax cuts, although that did not stop the president from bringing it up twice more in the debate.

An important point to note is that Romney is offering tax cuts to everybody. He is offering tax cuts for both individuals and corporations. Obama took this for a decrease in the decreased which is true, the short run. In reality, the lower taxes will allow the businesses and people to invest extra money back into the economy, growing it more, and subsequently increasing the tax revenue. So Romney didn't lie when he said, "there will be no tax cut that adds to the deficit."

Another common mistake both Obama and the average viewer made is the interpretation of Romney's claim that he will "not reduce the share of taxes paid by high income people." This does not mean he's going to keep their tax rate constant, as first impression indicates, but that he will lower it in proportion to the other tax rates. All individual income tax rates under Romney's plan will be decreased by 20 percent.

While on the subject of entitlements, Obama credited $716 billion saved by not overpaying insurance companies and providers and goes on to say that this money saved gives $600 dollars back, on average, to the seniors for their prescription cost. Romney attacks the $716 billion saved by showing that it wasn't over-payments being cut back but rates being reduced across the board. Romney said, "15 percent of hospitals and nursing homes won't take any more Medicare patients under that scenario." Four million people will lose Medicare advantage due to this cut. This cut isn't even to reduce the budget, but to make up for some of the deficit of Obamacare.

Obamacare is a policy that Romney largely disagrees with, despite the fact that he was a large proponent of health care in his own state. Romneycare was passed in a bipartisan style, with only two voting against it. It also did not require additional taxes, such as the $1 trillion raise needed to fund Obamacare, a board to determine who can get what treatments was put in place, such as the "deathboard" in Obamacare, nor did Romneycare eliminate private insurance possibilities. The Massachusetts health care plan was tailored to the state's specific needs, so it is easier to manage than the overbearing, nationwide health care plan.

He believes the role of government is to protect the principles of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. That means America must first have a military to protect itself and that people are endowed by their creator the right to the pursuit of happiness. That means that American citizens must be charitable and care for one another. And it means that individuals must retain the right to pursue their dreams.

THE REALITY CHECK

Both candidates slighted the truth. The Spartana took these direct quotations from Politifact.com to hold each candidate accountable for his conduct.

Obama said that "independent studies" looking at Romney's tax plan say the only way to meet Romney's goal of not adding to the deficit is by "burdening middle class families."	**Mostly True, Here's Why:** A reputable study from the Tax Policy Center found that to meet Romney's deficit goal, middle class taxpayers might lose exemptions and deductions worth about $2,000.
Obama said Romney wants to add $2 trillion to the defense budget that the military hasn't asked for.	**True, Here's Why:** We looked at Romney's budget proposal and found the number was accurate. We didn't find reports that top brass was asking for the money.
Obama claimed that the "essence" of Romney's plan for retiree health care was to "turn Medicare into a voucher program." Romney would give seniors a premium support payment toward private insurance, to replace the current system of government payments to doctors and hospitals.	**Mostly True, Here's Why:** Generally, we think "voucher program" is a fair way of describing to voters the vision for Medicare under a Romney-Ryan administration.
Romney said six tax studies look at a study that Obama described and "say it's completely wrong."	**Mostly False, Here's Why:** Previously, Romney has claimed that five studies back his tax plan. We saw no more than two independent studies out of the five claimed.
Romney said his health care plan covered people with pre-existing conditions, so that insurers can't deny them coverage.	**Mostly False, Here's Why:** But he left out a critical qualifier: People only get protection under his plan if they maintain continuous coverage without gaps where they're uninsured. That's a big difference from the health care law on the books.
Romney said, "In one year, (President Obama) provided $90 billion in breaks to the green energy world … into solar and wind, to Solyndra and Fisker and Tesla and Ener1."	**False, Here's Why:** That $90 billion wasn't provided in one year, wasn't distributed primarily via tax breaks, wasn't primarily provided directly to companies, wasn't primarily spent on solar and wind, and wasn't spent at all on Fisker or Tesla.

Our Thoughts: Romney won the debate, but Obama had the facts on his side; Jim Lehrer ought to have fought harder to wrestle the truth from both debaters.

School spirit an essential faucet of student life

Quantity of school spirit has improved over past few years, vast room for improvement

By Sophia Brown
Writer

School spirit is important not only for a school, but for its students. It instills pride and appreciation in the school and fellow classmates. It provides the students a reason to have fun at school and want to come to school, while coming together as a school for our fellow classmates. From football games to pep sessions to school dances, school spirit this year has been remarkable.

The recent Homecoming week, a week all about embracing school spirit, was outstanding in comparison to the past two years. The number of people who participated in the dress-up days seemed to reach an all-time high as students paraded down the hall in their pajamas.

It was amazing how many people contributed Harry Potter day, making the school like Hogwarts itself. Last but not least, showing our American spirit on Friday was the most impressive to see as students lit up the halls with red white and blue and took pictures in memory of Homecoming 2012.

School spirit is evident not just in Homecoming, but also in the football games, as every Friday students go to the Varsity games and cheer until their voices are gone.

The dedication students have to participate in these games through windy, cold nights and rain shows how outstanding Homestead's school spirit is compared to other schools. This year's student sections in all sports have improved drastically from almost nothing at all to over packed.

School spirit is pride, it's camaraderie, and it's the involvement of everyone in the community. It's what sets some schools apart, it's what makes school memories so precious, and even though it can't be defined in one word, everyone knows it when he sees it, hears it and feels it.

School spirit possesses our senior students to paint their bodies in school colors to represent each other, wear outrageous items and lead the student section in supporting our fellow Spartans. That's school spirit.

School spirit is what keeps the students here at Homestead going, and even though our school spirit is already at a higher rate than it has been the past couple years, it is definitely not at an all time high. The only thing students can do is attempt to keep the levels of school spirit high in order to keep morale high.

> "The dedication students have to go participate in these games through windy, cold nights and rain shows how outstanding Homestead's school spirit is compared to other schools."
>
> **SOPHIA BROWN**

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Sheriff allegedly involved in corruption

There is nothing quite like an abuse of power to ruin the reputation many have worked so hard to nurture. For years, public faith in law enforcement has never been high, despite the fact that almost all officers are motivated by justice and honesty. But one single action, unverifiable or otherwise, can give rise to a startling number of questions regarding the legitimacy of local law enforcement.

Sheriff Ken Fries received a call at his home around 3 a.m. on June 2 from Paul Moss, a fellow Republican Allen County Councilman, who had been pulled over, refused a field sobriety test, and was awaiting a blood test. Moss claims he only asked Fries to "expedite the process," and Fries flatly denies any breach of ethics. However, according to a Fort Wayne police department report, the FWPD officer who was supposed to help administer an OWI test on Moss on June 2 was told Sheriff Fries had issued an order to disregard the call. Moss was subsequently let go.

While Fries and Moss insist there was no abuse of power, and the local committee of ethics refused to discuss the topic for more than ten minutes, the fact remains that after a phone call to the sheriff, a man who refused a field sobriety test was allowed to leave the scene, untested. In contrast, thousands of people are pulled over for the suspicion of driving while intoxicated, and it is highly unlikely that any of them phone the sheriff for what appears to be a 'Get Out of Jail Free' card. To many, it seems that, because of the friendly relationship between Moss and Fries, Moss received special treatment and possibly avoided criminal charges for his actions. That alone deserves further investigation from the Allen County Prosecutor.

As the sheriff, Fries should welcome an investigation into these allegations. After all, if there is no truth to the allegations, neither Fries nor Moss should have anything of which to be afraid. However, because of their mutual unwillingness to confront the issue openly, it merely adds validity to an already murky situation.

The Ed Board

Joe Laughlin, Tori Barnard, Laura Zweig, Clair Pranger, Dani Castonzo, Ryan Boylan

{The Bottom Line} *The questionable situation and possibility of favoritism between county officials deserves further serious investigation.*

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Family hosts exchange students for second year

Schacher family gives international student first-hand American experience

By Alex Eady
Writer

Each year, several students from different countries join the student body for a year to experience American lifestyle firsthand. Willing familes open their homes to these students and allow them to become a part of their family for the school year. The Schacher family hosted two foreign exchange students last year and are hosting two more this year, Charlotte Neuber (12) from Germany and Laura Wolff (12) from Portugal.

"I've always wanted to be a host family ever since the idea was suggested to me a few years ago by a band parent," host parent and special needs teacher Jamie Schacher said.

The foreign exchange program, AYA (Academic Year in America) allows students from countries all around the world to study in the United States for one year. Sponsored by the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) Foundation, the program has promoted cultural awareness for years. The Schachers decided to continue to work with the program after their positive experience last year.

"I think it was a very interesting experience hosting Oleg and Gino, I enjoyed it a lot. It's somewhat like having a friend spend the night each night," Chris Schacher (12) said.

Just two months ago, foreign students Charlotte and Laura both arrived in the United States to stay with the Schachers. Neuber said that although it is not her first time in the United States, she is still adjusting to the different lifestyle.

"It's different to live with someone from a different country because you are only speaking English," Neuber said, "but living with the Schacher family is fun, and they are such lovely people. They are very welcoming and open to help you."

Despite the adjustment, the girls were both looking forward to experiencing all that America has to offer.

"The girls said they were both pretty anxious to see an American football game, try new food, and experience the high school events," Jaime Schacher said.

Nueber and Wolff both said they were looking forward to trying different American foods.

"One thing I was excited to do was try Taco Bell," Neuber said. "My brother told me to try it once I was here and it was actually pretty good."

Another adjustment for the students was attending school, considering both girls only had one class each day with different subjects back home.

"The school here is very different from back home because we didn't have seven different classes, and we didn't have laptops either," Neuber said.

Although it was a challenge, the girls were able to the adjust to American schooling with the help of friends and teachers.

"A lot of the teachers here are very nice and helpful and it's great that you can talk with them about anything. They are very open and I feel really comfortable with them," Neuber said.

As registered seniors, the foreign exchange students are able to experience every event including games, prom, and graduation.

"I was very excited to go to a real American football game. It was so fun to see the [students] run out on the field and see everyone cheering for the team," Neuber said.

Through the Schacher's willingness to share their home, Neuber and Wolff have been given the opportunity of a lifetime to experience American culture firsthand.

"The best part about hosting a foreign exchange student is learning about different countries and cultures. Also having a new sibling and creating a strong bond with them. Even though some days can be rough, I don't think me or my family regret this decision to open our house up," Chris Schacher said.

PHOTO BY EMILY KAMINSKI

Host parent Jamie Schacher with foreign exchange students Charlotte Neuber and Laura Wolff, left and right. This will be the Schachers second year as a host family.

The Buck Starts Here

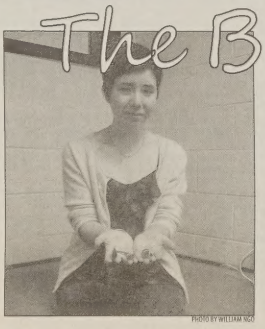


PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

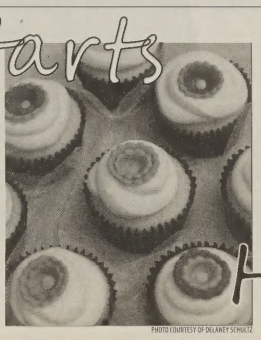


PHOTO COURTESY OF DELANEY SCHULTZ

PHOTO BY TORI RAYMOND

Students sell handmade jewelry, clothes and baked goods to make a profit

By William Ngo
Writer

Students have stepped outside the box of stereotypical fast-food jobs and have established businesses centered around their interests, producing work offices out of their own homes. Joining the race against professional salesmen, five young adults have watched their efforts grow and develop.

In 2010, Delaney Schultz (12) took her love for baking to the next level by starting a cupcake company, Delaney's Cupcakes. Since then, the recreational project has skyrocketed with unanticipated success. Baking the pastries straight from her own kitchen, Schultz satisfies her customers' sweet tooths by combining 12 cake flavors, with various fillings and icings.

In addition to increasing her knowledge of culinary technique, the baker took a business class where she applied her newly obtained education to the bakery's development. The course also assisted her in making the decision to pursue a business degree next year when she heads off to college.

"[Business foundations] helped me look more closely at the business side versus the creative side," Schultz said.

Highlights of Schultz's cupcake business has included an order for a film's wrap party in New York and another respective purchase of nearly 1,200 cupcakes for a clothing line event.

What do you do when you have too much of something, besides let it collect dust or throw it away? Sell it, which is exactly what Kira Clouse (12) did. Clouse developed a knack for charm making but began to create an overabundance of them. When one of her friends voiced her desire to purchase a piece, the rest became history.

Still relatively new in its roots, Clouse's jewelry line steadily grew in the local community. While product advertisement routinely consisted of individuals directly approaching Clouse and asking her about the jewelry she wears, word of mouth promotion and online postings have brought further attention to her products.

> "It's a great feeling knowing something I made was nice enough for a person to show the rest of the world."
>
> **KIRA CLOUSE (12)**
> *Jewelry Maker*

"It's a great feeling knowing something I made was nice enough for a person to show the rest of the world," Clouse said.

Her creations redefine standard jewelry with pieces such as recycled spoon and fork bracelets, rings, ear cuffs and pendants.

Clouse took a personal finance class, which prepared her in dealing with some of a business' underlying factors, such as budgets and funding. She hoped one day to fully move her hobby onto the internet where it will be able to reach customers outside the local community.

Jordan Page (9) has helped run his father's clothing line, Word Up, since 2011, but is now branching into the fashion scene himself. He considered the possibility of following his father's steps by creating a new collection of his own.

"The best thing is seeing a lot of people wear what my dad started," Page said.

Working with his father, Page took and kept track of the customers' orders, while balancing the work with school. He regularly pitched design ideas for the line as well. Offering selections such as sweaters, sweatpants and t-shirts, other students have fallen in love with the clothing line's simple yet bold logo incorporated into every apparel item. Page once spotted strangers in public wearing Word Up attire, shocking him to see the company's success had extended so far.

Sara Hudnall (11) and Alexis Shade (11) founded the non-profit organization, Knots & Folds, where they specialize in handmade friendship bracelets and origami pieces. The friend-built business also puts focus on customer requests of color, design and material.

"I love being able to work with my best friend on something we both enjoy," Hudnall said.

Following this past summer, the philanthropic artists decided to share their crafts with the public and donate one dollar from every item sold to charity. At this time, proceeds go toward the St. Francis food bank.

Both individuals took joy in others recognizing their artistic abilities and intend to support additional charities in the future.

Despite the difficulties of starting a business, these five young adults work toward growth by setting new goals. With each, high and low points of their respective businesses will garner knowledge and differing experiences they will maintain later in life.

Left: Kira Clouse (12) with her handmade jewelry. Middle: Sara Hudnall (11) and Alexis Shade (11) with handmade bracelets and origami pieces. Right: Decorative cupcakes from Delaney Schultz's (12) business, Delaney's Cupcakes.

Student creates club to support animals in need

Group strives to stop animal neglect and cruelty, promotes adopting from shelters

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Animal enthusiast Shannon Nycum (11) founded the Animal Lover's Club after attending an inspiring youth leaders conference.

By Colby Shoulp
Writer

This year's newest and unique club is Animal Lover's Club, a group aimed at supporting animals in need. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 3:30 PM in Mrs. Hopper's room. Members plan to volunteer at all of the local shelters and to help shelter animals find homes.

"Basically the club is about creating awareness for the animals of the SPCA [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals], and helping to raise money for the shelters, primarily the Allen County SPCA," club treasurer Devon Davis (12) said.

Shannon Nycum (11), club founder, said that she was inspired to start the group after attending the National Young Leaders conference in Washington, D.C. last summer.

"I learned how to make a big, helpful impact by starting with something small," Nycum said of the conference, "I have a passion for animals, so I decided I would help the SPCA by creating this club at school to help animals find homes."

According to Davis, currently the club has about 7-10 people show up per meeting. As the group's founder, Nycum has been working on increasing that attendance record and recruiting more people to support this important cause.

Due to the low attendance record, the club does not yet have an official board; it's meetings are run almost entirely by Nycum and Davis. Nycum plans the meetings and events, while Davis handles the money and fund raising.

"For everyone else, their only responsibilities are to show up, help spread the word, help raise money for the cause and to just have fun," Davis said.

Davis acknowledged that not every one takes the club seriously, and some people may not believe that Animal Lover's Club is a real group.

"I feel like once more people know about the club and realize that it's not a joke then people will come. Everyone loves animals," Davis said.

Although the club is still small, Nycum has big plans for the future of Animal Lover's Club. She plans to sell bracelets and hang posters with pictures of the animals up for adoption. She is also planning a variety of other projects and events for the club including a cookie sale, dog walking and a pet food drive.

"It takes a strong commitment to start a club for something that you truly believe in," Davis said. "And it just so happens that my group of friends and I believe in helping animals this much."

SHELTER STATISTICS

- About 62% of all households in the United States have a pet
- 5 million to 7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately 3 million to 4 million are euthanized
- 25% of dogs who enter local shelters are purebred
- Only 10% of the animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered, while 78% of pet dogs and 88% of pet cats are spayed or neutered
- More than 20 percent of people who leave dogs in shelters adopted them from a shelter

SOURCE: ASPCA.ORG

ASPCA

Column writer finds obvious plot holes in classic and new horror films

I am the last person with whom you would want to watch a scary movie. I hide behind fluffy pillows and frightened friends. I scream every time something jumps out. I make annoying predictions, and I point out plot holes. I throw popcorn and large drinks and Raisinets in fear. When a scene becomes really intense, I talk to the characters in the movie: "Why are you going down there? You hear a noise in the basement, you call the police! At least put some pants on before walking down there undefended!"

I once took a quiz entitled "How long would you last in a horror movie?" The results determined that I would live the longest. Not because I run quickly or battle with demons but because I always picked the "hide in a closet/behind a tree" option. So here is a list of a few scary movies that could have ended a lot better with a little common sense:

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

1. The Ring: Everyone has that one movie that emotionally scarred them as a child. This was mine. For weeks I could not sleep with the lights off or look at a TV. While I have come to realize that it is physically impossible for a demonic child to climb out of your television and brutally murder you because you watched a video tape, I still freak out a little every time my screen goes fuzzy. However, had Rachel just left the tape alone, none of this would have happened. Everyone told her that if she watched the tape, she would die in seven days, and what does she do? She watches the tape. That is just bad planning.

2. The Paranormal Activities: All three of these movies have the exact same plot. Lights flicker. Household items move mysteriously. Doors open and close by themselves. Someone who loves cameras decides that it must be a ghost and starts taping every minute of their lives, which makes the paranormal happenings get worse, and eventually everyone becomes possessed and dies (Rated R for repetitive). Well, the videotaping fanatic was definitely asking for it. If you knew the demon fed off attention, why the heck would you keep recording it? Watch a movie, have some friends over, ignore the mysteriously creaking door. Deny, deny, deny.

3. Friday the 13th: Everyone has seen this one; a group of counselors at Camp Crystal Lake are brutally murdered by a crazy old lady trying to avenge her son Jason's unfortunate drowning. If you think about it, she was actually promoting a very positive message: if the counselors had spent less time canoodling and had spent more time being observant, none of this would have happened. Of course, I'm referring to the 1980 version starring Kevin Bacon, not the newer version. I would not even know where to start with that movie.

4. The Roommate: It is the same old story. Girl meets roommate, girl becomes friends with roommate, roommate gets jealous of the girl, roommate goes crazy and tries to kill the roommate's cat and her friends. Happens all the time. In my opinion, Sarah had it coming; there were so many signs. If she thought there was nothing odd about Rebecca even after she started wearing her clothes and repeatedly calling her and putting cats in laundry dryers, then she was asking for it.

> "If you knew the demon fed off attention, why the heck would you keep recording it? Watch a movie, have some friends over, ignore the mysteriously creaking door. Deny, deny, deny."
>
> **DANI CASTONZO**

5. Carrie: Sheltered religious girl with crazy mother develops psychic powers and blows up her school after being the product of a prom prank. This prank involved a set-up Prom Queen victory coinciding with dumping buckets of pig's blood on sheltered religious girl. I am not even going to touch on this one.

6. Halloween: The gripping tale of a masked Michael Myers who stalks and attacks a young Jamie Lee Curtis and her friends. It is a classic. However, I think the characters in this movie could have taken a hint from Macaulay Culkin in "Home Alone" and set up a system of elaborate booby traps to catch Michael. If a ten year old boy could do it, so can they.

7. Jeepers Creepers: This is one of the most irritating movies I have ever watched. A guy sees a masked man drop a human-sized bag down a drain, so he goes down the drain. Had he simply reported this unusual behavior to the local police and driven away, he never would have had his eyes ripped out by the Creeper. There are simple solutions.

What I have learned from scary movies is this: If you are ever faced with a murderous old lady, pesky demon, bullied psychopath with hidden talents or demonic child, exercise some common sense and do not approach, goad or videotape them. You do not want to be the inspiration for the next lame horror film.

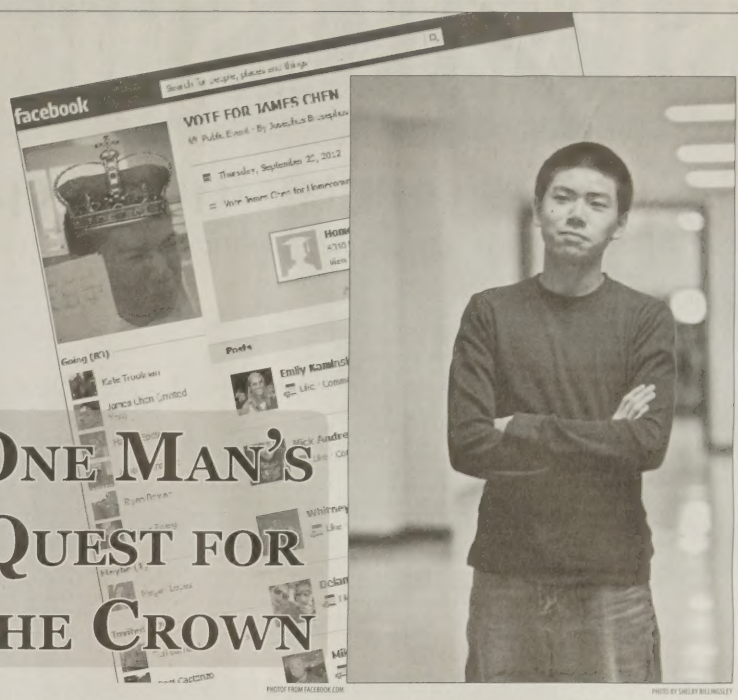


PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK.COM

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

ONE MAN'S QUEST FOR THE CROWN

Underdog Homecoming candidate wins the coveted title of king

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Executive Editor

With great power comes great responsibility. James Chen (12) has neither. By his own admission, Chen is not a popular guy. So how did he rise to become Homestead's newest Homecoming King?

The origin story of the Once and Future King Chen begins with a failure.

"A bunch of my friends voted for me for prom court," Chen said, "but I didn't get on so they were determined to get me on homecoming court."

Chen thought the efforts would end after an abortive attempt to be on prom court. He did not anticipate the persistence of his friends.

"Jason Ivanovic (12) jokingly said, 'Wouldn't it be hilarious if James Chen won homecoming?' so I set out on the quest to make it a reality," said Facebook aficionado Joey Sherman (12).

Sherman's Facebook page calling for students to vote for Chen during the preliminary advisory tally attracted the attention of the student body, with over 200 students invited to participate.

"I didn't really campaign. My friends campaigned for me," Chen said.

Following the initial vote, where the field of potential Homecoming Kings was narrowed to six, Sherman created another Facebook event to encourage followers to suit up (that is, wear a suit) to support Chen. On the Thursday of the vote, which happened to be Twin Day, students in dapper suits could be spotted all around the school.

Chen was shocked to have even made it that far.

"I feel like I kind of represent the unexpected character," Chen said. "I'm not what you'd traditionally expect on Homecoming court."

Despite being the reluctant candidate and declared long-shot, Chen emerged victorious on Oct. 5 at the game. He was crowned the 2012 Homecoming King alongside Homecoming Queen Bradey Wright (12).

"Seeing the velvet crown placed upon his head was overwhelming. The sense of accomplishment brought me and many others to tears," Sherman said. "It was touching, really."

Some students pondered whether Chen's victory signaled a shift from typical Homecoming Court results.

"It kind of represents the underdogs. He's such a well-liked person. I think it will show that it's not about popularity but genuine likability," said fellow Homecoming Court member Molly Ray (12).

> "Seeing the velvet crown placed upon his head was overwhelming. The sense of accomplishment brought me and many others to tears. It was touching, really."
>
> **JOEY SHERMAN (12)**
> *James Chen Supporter*

Chen does not represent the stereotypical '80s movie Homecoming King. In fact, Chen was the only candidate in the running for king that is not involved in athletics, generally considered a prerequisite for king. Many student pundits would argue that because Chen is not the generalization he better embodies the sentiments of the populace.

"James Chen represents the student body better than anyone else possibly could," Park Lickliter (12), who suited up the day of the vote, said.

While the title of Homecoming King does not come with any power or authority, Chen is still shocked he won.

"Winning Homecoming King means I have a lot more friends than I expected," Chen said.

Still, Chen is no stranger to elections. Students in any of Justin Peeper's Spanish classes know him as "Antonio Chen," the student running for "presidente." Campaign manager Will Davis (12) said that the race for king was all a part of the larger presidential campaign.

"Antonio wore a suit to school one day last year, and when Señor Peeper inquired as to the occasion, Antonio casually responded, 'I'm running for president,'" Davis said. "The whole homecoming thing was an attempt to sway the younger vote his way."

According to various members of his campaign during discussions in Peeper's class, "Antonio Chen" already conquered Chile and Argentina, which was renamed Archentina, and now sets his sight on the White House.

"I have no doubts that his innate charisma, irresistible charm, and worldly practicality will not fail him in this, the final leg, in the race to the 'Casa Blanca,'" Davis said.

Peeper said the attention to Chen's campaign has come up in both classroom conversation and journal assignments. One out of every eight students writes about it on a given week and suggest policy, such as making Spanish the national language.

"It's been fun to see something that started in Spanish class to grow to something bigger than these kids expected," Peeper said.

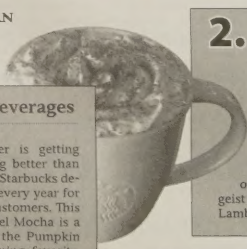
Regardless of his intentions, Chen will have to adjust to his new found spotlight.

"It feels weird because I never did, and still don't, consider myself to be popular," Chen said. "I'm just somebody who knows a lot of people."

Fall brings new seasonal activities

Students seek experiences, thrills unique to this time of year

BY KATE TROUTMAN
Writer



1. Enjoy fall beverages

Now that the weather is getting colder, there is nothing better than sipping hot beverages. Starbucks develops new fall drinks every year for the pleasure of their customers. This year, the Salted Caramel Mocha is a brand new drink, and the Pumpkin Spice Latte is a returning favorite. "The Pumpkin Spice Latte is like fall in a cup," Hanita Epstein (12) said. Seasonal beverages are a perfect way to fight the impending fall chill.

2. Watch a horror movie

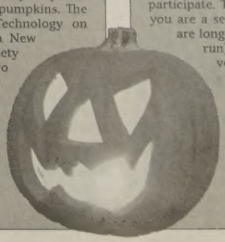
With Halloween around the corner, scary movies are at a peak in the box office. "I love watching scary movies because even though they give me nightmares, I love the exhilarating experience," Megan Read (11) said. Sinister (R), Hotel Transylvania (PG), Frankenweenie (PG), House at the End of the Street (PG-13) and Paranormal Activity are all options to spook up a weekend. If these movies aren't appealing, there are plenty of classic horror movies to be rented at Redbox or on Netflix. Some good classics include The Shining (R), Poltergeist (PG), Nightmare on Elm Street (the original) (R), Silence of the Lambs and the Blair Witch Project (R).

3. Shop at a Farmer's Market

A few markets are still open for a few weeks this fall. A plethora of fresh produce and crafts can be found at the East State Village Farmer's Market. "Fresh produce has changed my life; I will never go back to store bought food. I take all my dates there," Abbi Stephens (11) said. A twenty minute drive away, you can enjoy the crisp fall weather and colored trees as you walk around East State Boulevard. The last day this market is open is Sunday, October 21st, from 12 to 4 in the afternoon.

4. Carve a Pumpkin

Channel your inner child by carving a pumpkin this fall. "I would liken the magic of the experience of pumpkin carving to the unbounded imaginative pleasure of the attendance of Disney World," Olivia Zimmerman (11) said. There are plenty of places in town that sell pumpkins. The Advanced Tree Technology on Edgerton Road in New Haven for a variety of sizes from two pounds to fifty pounds. Their hours are Monday Thru Friday 9:30 am to 7:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.



5. Participate in the Galloping Gobbler

This activity may not be on everyone's list, but the Galloping Gobbler is a Thanksgiving tradition. This run is a great way to get a healthy start to the feast and festivities of Thanksgiving. All fitness levels can participate. This four mile run (if you are a seasoned runner, there are longer routes available to run) begins on the University of Saint Francis campus, continues through the famous and historic Fort Wayne Lindenwood Cemetery, and finishes back at the University of Saint Francis campus.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM NGO

PHOTO BY REAGAN MAESELL

Girls' cross country team prepares for State

Team takes victory at West Noble Invitational, finishes second in NHC Conference

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Shannon Didier (11) gazes at the finish line during her race.

By Jessica Tebben
Writer

As the girls cross country season comes to a close, the team is working harder in order to reach their goals. The state meet is getting progressively nearer, but the team still has to focus on their regular season just as much as they have been.

This focus is shown through the high scores in the early portions of the season. They placed 3rd at both the Huntington North Invitational and the Marion Invitational. Recently, they won the West Noble Invitational and finished 2nd in the NHC meet. The team has to go to sectionals, regionals and semi-state before they can qualify for state.

In order for the team to continue to do well, they have to score as low as possible in the remainder of their season. During a varsity competition, only 7 runners participate in the race, and the top five runners' scores are used to determine who win. The 6th and 7th runners' scores can be used in the case of a tie. The position each runner places coincides with the score that they receive. The team with the lowest score wins.

However, the problem for the girls cross country team is not the scoring. This year, the team has had many injuries that held them back from competing to their full potential.

"It's been difficult to be at full strength each meet," Head Coach Sara Wyss said. The team is trying to stay as healthy as possible for the remainder of the season leading up to Semi-State and State.

Save for the unusually large amount of injuries, the individual members of the team have been faring well. At the NHC meet, Taylor Busch (11) set a new junior record of 19:21, finishing 5th. In the same meet, Grace Walther (9) finished in 4th, setting a new school record at 19:08. Mariah Jordan (12) is also under 20 minutes, giving the team what Coach Wyss calls a "1-2-3 kick", which will surely benefit them in the remainder of the season.

The team's goals for the rest of the season include placing in the top 6 at semi-state in order to qualify for the state finals. Last year, they placed 7th at semi-state, sending them home defeated. This year, the team is working harder in order to ensure a spot in the state finals.

"I think our team has definitely improved a lot from last year," Busch said. "Most people have gotten faster, and we have some very good freshmen who have helped our team improve."

The remainder of the season looks bright for the Girls Cross Country team. Their improvements throughout the season have been phenomenal. The team is hoping to place high at the State meet and continue to improve going into next season.

"It's important to complete this season before looking ahead, but we have a very young team, and the future looks bright," Coach Wyss said. "Everyone is dedicated to the success of the program and working hard in the off-season to be successful next year."

PHOTO BY SYDNEY ISROFF

BREAKING the ICE

Hockey team begins its season with a victory, looks toward future optimistically

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

The Hockey team began their season with a dominant victory over Snider, but still remembers last year's tough loss in the State tournament.

With a tie of 2-2, the hockey team was minutes away from moving onto the 2012 State Championship. An unanticipated recovery from opponent, Hamilton Southeastern resulted in the team's loss, leaving the athletes speculating and unsatisfied for the year to come.

"We were definitely the better team, and it was really a heartbreaking loss," Landon Rody (12) said.

Contrastingly, this year's season opener against the Summit City Panthers (Snider) brought a newly found confidence and fresh start, diminishing the disappointed feelings of last years' inadequate conclusion.

Facing Snider's team, who is short players this year, athlete's had an early determination of how the rest of the game would play out. Fourteen seconds in, the team scored with a steady performance that withstood in the remainder of the game. The victory of 7-0 was aided by Robbie Clay (12), with four points and a hat trick (scoring three goals) and Paul Lee (12) with three points.

"It was a good game for us from the start," Max Dvorak (12) said. Our puck control and strong shooting helped to give us the upper hand."

Aside from regular season games, this year's team has vowed to remain focused on the ultimate goal once again, to win state. They have plans to be attentive towards crossover games, with hopes of being necessarily conditioned for the desired championship. To ensure the success of the season, the team is playing challenging opponents such as Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern, and Saint Joseph's twice rather than playing teams below their level.

> "Right now we are doing most things fluenty and just playing as a team. We are starting to work out some mental kinks and really stressing decision making."
>
> **LANDON RODY (12)**
> *Varsity Offensemen*

Looking further into the season, the team anticipates the last two games of the rotation, Leo and Carroll, to be crucial to their regular season success.

"We developed a new rivalry last year with Leo, and we blew them out every game," Rody said. "We definitely look forward to playing them and want to show them we can still dominate the game."

Similarly, the rivalry against Carroll has already brought pregame eagerness; however, unlike last year, their team has progressed to be a challenging competitor.

"I think Carroll looks like the toughest competition for us this year within Fort Wayne. We expect them to have some young, fast players," Dvorak said. "Leo is also looking solid. Two big things I think will set us apart are our checking and power play, which we're really focusing on."

Another key asset lost from last season is the graduated players. The upperclassmen have been pressing the younger players to live up to their predecessors, and in time, they are expected to excel. For instance, freshman, Thomas Losher (Canterbury) is making a great defensive impact and has exposed escalated potential.

"Right now we are doing most things fluently and just playing as a team. We are still working out some mental kinks and really stressing decision making," Rody said. "We aren't as deep on the bench this year, but I think the underclassmen will pick it up and we will be solid offensively and defensively.

Furthermore, the team now has a record of 1 win, 0 losses, and 0 ties. They are tied for first in the Fort Wayne Area High School Hockey League. In addition to this, the state rankings have yet to be revealed, but the team is projected to be in the top ten throughout the season, just like last year.

"I would say we are going to get that four-peat for city, and (we) could even bring home that State title once and for all," Rody said.

Above: The team looks down the ice as the players generate an attack at the goal mouth.

Golf team falls short of making state cuts

Though a strong team, members are unable to get the yardage to drive them to state

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

A mere seven strokes stood between the girls' golf team and their chance to advance to the State championship once again this year. Placing fourth at the regional match unfortunately did not land them a place in the finals, but the team undoubtedly had a successful year.

"Our team battled through the whole season without slipping or coming close to being beaten by any other teams," Emily Olson (12), team captain, said. "When we faced teams that were more competitive to us, we had to buckle down and focus."

Precluding regionals, the team dominated competition at Canterbury, Leo, and sectionals. Both Canterbury and Leo were easy wins for the athletes, shooting a 169 against Leo. Front runners of this season, Annie Butchko (11) with a score of 39, Olson with a score of 40, team captain Rosie Schroeder (12) with a score of 44, and Courtney Delacuesta (11) with a score of 46 had excellent performances which aided in the team's victory.

"Canterbury was our senior night. We competed strongly, beating both teams," Schroeder said. "At (Leo) I had my best match of the season, but at Canterbury our seniors stepped up shooting some of their best scores of the season."

Coming in first place at sectionals with a total score of 346, the team was aided by Olson who placed in second along with Butchko , Schroeder and Delacuesta who followed close behind. The team defeated thirteen other opponents and surpassed the runner up by 37 strokes.

"Our team played really well as a whole and individually," Delacuesta said. "Some other teams' goal(s) (were) to beat us, and that's sometimes how it goes."

With hindsight, into the regular season matches, the team had no difficulties conquering every opponent it came across. Up until the final tournament, the team was undefeated, but fell short and finished in third place. Moreover, a focal point earlier in the year was to beat their most anticipated opponents, Dekalb and East Noble, which both have players able to shoot about even par or under.

"We went in there wanting to crush (DeKalb) after they beat us at two of our summer tournaments," Olson said. "We did just that (beating them by 14 strokes in 9 holes), and it was an amazing feeling walking off their home course knowing we had got the job done."

As for the East Noble match, the players had an equally excellent performance, which kick-started the new season.

Furthermore, outsiders were unaware of the talent this year's team would bring; underclassmen especially looked to the only seniors on varsity, Olsen and Schroeder, to score best on the team.

"Last year, we graduated our number one and number two players, so we were thrown completely under the radar and not ranked for this season," Olson said. "However, we ended up shooting the same scores as last year, because everyone improved so much. Although we fell short at regionals and our ultimate goal was state, we fought hard all the way through. People really stepped up and we really had a great season."

Next year's season looks promising with lead players DelaCuesta and Butchko filling the void of the absence of seniors Schroeder and Olson who have continuously had some of the strongest scores on the team.

BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers that relate to the golf team's State aspirations:

4 the team's place at the Regional competition this year

7 number of strokes that separated this team from advancing to state

12 how the team finished last year in State competition

15 number of teams that will compete at the State competition

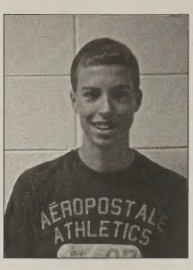
346 the final team score at Regionals this year

NFL supporters dwindle while Fantasy Football grows in popularity

Fantasy Football has become a major part of students' lives. Nowadays, I see more tweets on how one's fantasy team fared than a favorite NFL team. I believe you could thank the Indianapolis Colts for this increased focus on fantasy football. As a result of the atrocious 2-14 season Colts fans experienced last season, it seems that fans have turned to their fantasy teams for comfort. There still is hope for the Colts in future years with the acquisition of Quarterback Andrew Luck in the offseason, but let's just say you will probably want to focus more on your fantasy team than them this year.

For those select few who are oblivious to the pure source of entertainment that is referred to as "fantasy football," it seems necessary to explain what it is. Well, often used online, fantasy football is, as its name suggests, an imaginary league using real NFL player stats, but to most users, it is anything but imaginary. Each week, your team is matched up against another in the league, and the winner is decided by whichever team has had the most total points.

WIN, LOSE OR TYLER



BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Sports Editor

Recently, an article on Yahoo! Sports indicated that Eagles Running Back LeSean McCoy was told by a NFL referee "I need you for my fantasy team!" This claim sparked great debate over the new NFL replacement referees. It looks as though Fantasy Football Fever has even spread to the referees. In Week 3, the replacement refs made a highly-controversial call (to say the least) in the Packers-Seahawks game, which gave the Seahawks the win. Luckily, it didn't shift fantasy scores too horribly unless you had Golden Tate or the Packers defense (sadly, I did). However, the controversial call had a much more significant impact on the NFL season. Later that week, the real NFL referees and the NFL reached a deal that ended the replacement refs' historic reign. Students can now rest assured knowing the referees will not likely skew the fantasy stats.

> "There is certainly a reason why the NFL Network has been promoting fantasy football with the slogan, 'It's serious fun!' Let me tell you, it is 'serious fun,' especially if you are winning.
>
> **TYLER KOTESKEY**

Though fantasy football has been around awhile, its popularity hadn't really skyrocketed until the last decade. Now, many students may even be involved in multiple fantasy leagues. Often, a group of friends get together to have a draft for a fantasy league prior to the start of the season to determine who gets who. Though I know many students are dedicated to fantasy football, no one can compare to Andy Mousalimas, a founding member of the first fantasy football league in 1963. Mousalimas celebrated his 50th year of playing fantasy football this year. Mousalimas is a prime example of how important fantasy football has become.

Einstein once said: "How one's team does each week has a significant impact on one's attitude." Okay, he actually didn't say that, but it is still true. There is nothing more frustrating than seeing one of your fantasy players sidelined with an injury. This week, I watched as Rams Wide Receiver Danny Amendola left the game in the 2nd quarter with a broken collarbone. Not fun.

So who is the best player in fantasy football this year? The last few years, Quarterbacks like Aaron Rodgers, Tom Brady, and Drew Brees have lit up fantasy scoreboards each week. This year, the same quarterbacks have continued to amaze, plus impressive games from Falcons Quarterback Matt Ryan. A good running back is often the focus of the first round in a fantasy draft, yet heading into this season, many running backs were inconsistent. Maurice Jones-Drew had a holdout, Adrian Peterson was coming off an ACL tear, and both Marshawn Lynch and Michael Turner had off-the-field legal issues. Fantasy football users now were stuck in a dilemma and had to decide on a solid quarterback or take a chance on a running back.

There is certainly a reason why the NFL Network has been promoting fantasy football with the slogan, "It's serious fun!" Let me tell you, it is "serious fun," especially if you are winning. Yet, with leagues often around 10-12 teams, it is very difficult to win. With the league title in each and every person's sights, bragging rights on the line, students are preparing to win their fantasy game each week.

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PHOTOS BY REAGAN MAESELL

Following its seventh-consecutive Sectional victory, team loses Regionals

BY MATT BARBISH
Writer

After winning its seventh-consecutive Sectional title, the boys' soccer team fell to Dekalb in the Regional Semifinals.

"It was tough to have such a great season and see it end so soon," goalkeeper Zach McFarland (12) said.

The Spartans have won Sectional Championships in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. The Spartans have won now 7 Sectional titles in a row, spanning from 2006 to the present, inching closer to the boys soccer record of 10 consecutive sectional titles set by Center Grove from 1994-2003 and Munster from 2002-2011 in their respective sectionals.

During this time, the Spartans have made a name for themselves as quite a soccer contender year after year, and this year has not changed that notion. The Spartans have been impressive during the season and have shown why they were a preseason favorite for the sectional title once again.

"Our team utilizes all aspects of our talents," captain Jack Hagedorn (12) said. "We work hard; we train hard - it pays off."

Throughout the last few weeks, the team has faced some defining moments and has flexed their proverbial muscles in some matches while suffering a tough loss in another. On Sept. 24, the team took on Norwell and demolished the Knights by a score of 8-0.

In their next contest, they took on a top-ranked Carmel team. While the Spartans hung tough with the Greyhounds, they lost a tough 1-0 match. Despite the loss, the Spartans learned much about the team and were ready to move forward.

The Spartans finished the regular season ranked 19th in the Week 8 (Final) Coaches Poll.

> "It's outstanding that we have continued the Homestead record of winning a 7th straight sectional, keeping the sectional title here at Homestead."
>
> **MIKE DUCKER (12)**
> *Defender*

The Spartans have been led to this result by several key contributions by multiple sources. Chris Anderson (12) is second in the NHC in goals with 15 and has 5 assists and 35 points on the season so far. David Rincon (10) is fourth in the NHC in scoring with 10 goals and 25 points.

Last week marked the beginning of sectionals for the Spartans and their goal at capturing a seventh-straight Sectional title would prove not to be easy. In the first sectional game, the Spartans edged out the Huntington North Vikings by a score of 3-2. .

The Spartans outmatched North Side in the Sectional Championship, beating them by a score of 8-0. With the win, the Spartans captured their 9th sectional title in history and 7th straight sectional title, completing a huge team goal.

"It's outstanding that we have continued the Homestead record of winning a 7th straight sectional, keeping the sectional title here at Homestead. This was one of our goals this year and our team achieved," Ducker said.

The team continued on to the Regional Semifinals, where it faced off against Dekalb, who defeated the team in an overtime match in the regular season. This loss left the team eager to play against Dekalb again, and once they achieved the opportunity to do so, they were intent on avenging the defeat.

Though the match remained intensely close, Dekalb put in one goal in the first half and a second goal in the second half to seal victory; thus, they sent the Spartans home early from their postseason run.

"Moreso than any loss I have experienced, this one was incredibly disappointing," Hagedorn said. "We knew that we were irrefutably the better team, which gives the defeat a bitter taste."

Above: The team gathers around its sectional trophy. Left: Sam Behrens (10) looks down field for the ball.

THE COACH'S DYNASTY

Paco Castillo has coached the boys' soccer team for seven years. This year, he and the boys' soccer team hit several milestones. First, Castillo earned his 100th victory as head coach after a regular season victory over Columbia City. Furthermore, the team clinched an NHC title for the seventh-consecutive year at the same time that it captured its seventh-consecutive Sectional title, marking the school's ninth title in history. Castillo has also advanced two teams to State, including one as a runner-up, during his time as head coach.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PACO CASTILLO

New tennis complex approved

"The Jimmy Clark Tennis Center" predicted to be complete next year

BY SYDNEY ISROFF
Writer

After a new tennis complex was proposed in late 2011, the Board of School Trustees have been reviewing the information and decided to move forward with the idea. Still finalizing finances, the earliest construction would begin early next year. The complex will contain 12 courts which mean the tennis team is able to keep more players than the previous years.

The Jimmy Clark Tennis Center is named after Mr. Jim Clark, the former Homestead tennis coach. "They knew major repairs were needed and they started to formulate ideas and interest to help the district design and pay for a new or updated complex," Jim Coplen, Southwest Allen County Business manager, said. Jim Clark, the well-known Homestead tennis coach who lost his battle with cancer in August of 2011, will be given the naming rights to the center. The school has been looking to find a way to honor the late coach since his passing.

It has been approved to place the courts on the south end of Summit Middle School property. This location has been chosen based on several criteria specific to the potential uses of the district and community. The facility will not have an upper viewing deck, given it does not meet code.

A general obligation bond is being proposed to pay for the project, which means it will ultimately be paid through property taxes. "The payment/payback of the bonds would be structured to become payable after some or all of the district's current debt obligations have been satisfied," Coplen said.

The new facility will attract outside schools to attend the invitational at Homestead. "Athletes like to go where there is a new facility; there is extra room and the excitement of a new complex," Boys Head tennis coach James Shull said. With a new complex, Homestead will be able to host more tennis invitationals and tournaments. This year, the current facility was the site of IHSAA Sectional and Semi-State tennis competition.

The current tennis courts have become run down over time and were in need of constant care, these new courts will give Homestead a new and improved tennis facility. As a result of the new courts, the tennis teams will be able to expand their team size also expanding their program.

> "Athletes like to go where there is a new facility; there is extra room and the excitement of a new complex."
>
> **JIM SHULL**
> *Boys Head Tennis Coach*

This new complex will be used by Woodside Middle School and Summit Middle School for Physical Education classes. It will also be available for public use and open to the community.

"The cost of the new tennis courts is estimated to be in the $50,000 to $60,000 per court," Coplen said. "A 12-court tennis complex is estimated to be in the $650,000 range." The new H-shaped complex will provide more sustainable courts for the tennis teams along with more room.

SACS administration is looking at all district facilities to address building and site needs, such as traffic flow issues, safety/security concerns, new parking and food service facilities.

The boy's tennis team ended the season at 8-8, losing to an undefeated Canterbury squad. "Overall I was pleased, the players all got much better, which is what a coach can ask [for] and if they are getting better then that means we are doing our jobs," Coach Shull said.

The players eagerly await the arrival of the new complex which, ideally, will be ready next year.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Above: The current tennis courts at Homestead will be replaced with a new complex on property near Summit Middle School.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF KROGER

PHOTOS BY ALISON MANSFIELD

New "superstore" welcomed in replacement of previous Scott's store

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Feature Editor

I was crushed when I learned Kroger Co. was planning to tear down the Village at Coventry Scott's. Fort Wayne had been my home since birth, and Scott's Food and Pharmacy had been stocking my shelves for as long as I could recall. This wasn't just a store; it was part of my life.

All the newspaper articles I read outlined plans for a Kroger "superstore," complete with home furnishings, electronics and jewelry. The market was to be a monstrosity, spanning 125,000 square feet–displacing the Starbucks, ski shop and boutiques formerly located on the Scott's strip. Why did southwest need this king-sized retailer? Weren't groceries good enough?

But alas, construction kicked off in the summer, and the rubble accumulated. I relocated my cart to the Kroger across the street, and life moved on.

A pang of nostalgia came over me when I saw the new Kroger Marketplace complex bedecked in streamers and signs last week. The old Scott's was gone forever, and something shiny and new had come to take its place.

But luckily, the replacement is awesome. Kaleb Schlatter (12), Jamie Baer (12) and I visited the Kroger Marketplace on Friday to check out what it has to offer.

Entering the store, I was taken aback by the sheer number of people swarming through the aisles. It seemed as if the entire Fort Wayne community had come to marvel at this new commercial novelty–and for good reason.

Aesthetically, the store is beautiful, leaning a little more to the Fresh Market-end of the spectrum than the old Scott's ever did. The first addition to catch my eye was a fresh-squeezed orange juice machine. The contraption takes in oranges, juggles the fruits and spews out juice into an empty carton of your choice.

Nestled between the produce section and the entrance lies a quaint bakery corner as well, complete with fresh-baked loaves and custom-designed cupcakes available for purchase.

However, aside from traditional groceries, the Kroger Marketplace also boasts an assortment of hot-and-ready offerings. Located near the left entrance, salad, Chinese food, home-style cooking and soups are available at a grab-and-go bar. Soft drinks and milkshakes are located in this "to-go" enclave as well.

This ready-made foods bar is great for grabbing something on the go; however, there is also a dining area available for patrons to enjoy a meal inside the Kroger complex. Now you can enjoy a meal from Kroger without having to cook for yourself.

But what truly distinguishes the Kroger Marketplace from a traditional supermarket is its non-grocery offerings. Schlatter, Baer and I began our tour of the new store near the Fred Meyer shop, a specialty store-within-the-store offering fine jewelry. However, if Fred Meyers is a little outside of your price range, the Kroger Marketplace also has costume jewelry available for purchase. Other accessories, such as sunglasses, gloves and nail polish are in-stock as well.

Accessories for the home can be found in the home furnishings department, where recliners, lampshades and wall hangings abound. The home furnishings department is located in back of the toy section, an area where shelves are stocked with everything from playing cards to G.I. Joes.

To top it all off, the Kroger Marketplace has organized a well-trained and knowledgeable staff that keeps the store running like clockwork. Despite the large crowd of shoppers, we were able to check out in a matter of minutes.

Scott's Food and Pharmacy will always hold a special place in my heart, but the new Kroger Marketplace is a worthy successor. With this new complex, Kroger has continued to serve our community with a great selection of products set at competitive prices. The Kroger Marketplace encapsulates every aspect of the old Scott's and more. Plus, there are free samples.

BY THE NUMBERS

2	Kroger Markplace stores in Fort Wayne
13.7	million dollars spent on project
25k	dollars Kroger will donate to food bank building fund
340	new jobs created by store's opening
125k	square footage of the new building

SOURCE: WANE.TV.COM

A NEW JOB

LICKLITER

Some students, such as Park Lickliter (12), have sought employment for the first time in the new Kroger superstore.

I'm excited to get my feet wet and see which position fits me best.

THE $20 CHALLENGE: WHAT DOES THE SUPERSTORE HAVE TO OFFER?

SCHLATTER

BAER

THE SPARTANA

NEWS The first ever School Board Candidate Forum allows the candidates to share their positions on various relevant issues. 1

OPINION Richard Mourdock's recent comments on abortion inspire outrage in both Republican and Democratic Party members. 4

LIFE Graduates share their recent activities and explain how they have built on the education they received here. 5

SPORTS The boys' cross country team advances to State competition following fifteen years of unexpected defeat at Semi-State. 7

FEATURE French teacher Gregory Fryzel discusses his experiences as a pastry cook and his relationship with cooking. 8

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PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

SACS POLITICS YOUR CHOICE 2012

Forum connects school board candidates with constituents

BY TORI BARNARD AND LAURA ZWEIG
Executive Editors

With additional reporting by Megan Cater

Below the candidates for president and governor on Tuesday's ballot lie six influential yet often overlooked would-be politicians. The six candidates vying for three available spots on the School Board directly affect the education the roughly 7,000 students at the nine schools in the SACS district will receive.

Not only does this school board election mark a shift from a spring election to a fall election in order to increase voter turnout, but it also marks the first time in recent years for the community to elect a majority onto the board. Furthermore, the electorate has the opportunity to decide between two candidates per district, whereas typically the incumbents run unopposed.

The importance of this election was acknowledged by the administration.

"To me, the decisions these people make directly affects the

▶SEE 'FORUM,' PAGE 2

MEET THE CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 1

JOHN BLUM ■ JOE GRECO

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Business Aministration with a core in Finance - University of Saint Francis
Occupation: Commercial Banker with JPMorgan Chase Bank
Family that has attended or currently attends SACS: Daughters Amanda ('03) and Erin ('07)

Spartana: Why are you running for a position on the school board?
Blum: Simply stated, I have a real passion for

Education: Bachelor of Science in Physics - Xavier University; MBA - University of Michigan
Occupation: Business Development Manager at Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Family that has attended or currently attends SACS:
Spartana: Why are you running for a position on the school board?
Greco: As a member of the school board, I will contribute valuable perspective and leadership neces

▶SEE 'DISTRICT 1,' PAGE 2

WHAT THEY DO

The school board manages a budget of more than $65M and makes decisions that directly affect the 7,000 SACS students.

- The members meet the first and third Tuesday of every month.
- The School Board sets school district policy and ensure that is enforced.
- The board members are responsible for the hiring of the superintendent.
- The elected officials set the budget for the year as well as the expenditures.

DISTRICT 2

MARK GILPIN ■ JASON KUCHMAY

Education: Bachelor of Science - Indiana University
Occupation: Partner at Applied Technology Group, Inc.
Family that has attended or currently attends SACS: Wife Shari, Daughter Audrey ('11), Sons Nick ('09), Trevor (10)
Spartana: Why are you running for a position on the school board?

Gilpin: I believe that the 12 years of history I have served on the board show that I have no personal agenda

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Social Science Pre-Law - Michigan State Univeristy; JD - University of Toledo
Occupation: Attorney
Family that has attended or currently attends SACS: Daughters Abigail and Lindsay, Son Jackson
Spartana: Why are you running for a position on the school board?
Kuchmay: I am running for the school board because I believe I can provide positive change, and because

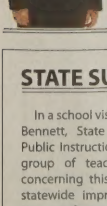
▶SEE 'DISTRICT 2,' PAGE 3

PHOTOS BY ALLIE NELSON

AT-LARGE

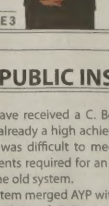
SHERRY CHAPMAN ■ MEAGAN MILNE

Education: Studied music and accounting at Concord University
Occupation: Executive Assistant at Woolman Financial Group; Event Planner at The Chapel
Family that has attended or currently attends SACS: Daughter Jenna ('09), Son Joshua ('11)



Spartana: Why are you running for a position on the school board?
Chapman: We have lived in this district for 18 years. We have raised

Education: Bachelor of Science - University of Illinois; J.D. - Indiana University
Occupation: Attorney
Family that has attended or currently attends SACS: Son William, Daughter Catherine
Spartana: Why are you running for a position on the school board?
Milne: My parents, both teachers, raised me to value learning. Not surprisingly, when my husband and I had children, I became very committed to their education -- always



▶SEE 'AT-LARGE,' PAGE 3

School Board member retires

John Bloom declines to seek reelection after 20 year term

BY PRISCILLA LIN
Writer

As November elections bring forth the installment of a new School Board, veteran board member John Bloom will retire following 20 years of service.

Bloom began his tenure when he was elected to the School Board in 1992. When his children moved into the public school system after previously attending private schools, Bloom decided to act on his long-standing interest in public service.

"My dad was a School Board member," Bloom said. "I had watched his public service and eventually found interest in public education myself. I thought it was a good way to give back to the community and get involved."

By serving 20 years, Bloom surpassed the occupancy of any other board member in SACS history. During his tenure, Bloom provided leadership and guidance

> "We were dealing with difficult issues, and Mr. Bloom's experience and kind heartedness helped lead the team toward the best decisions."
>
> **MARK GILPIN**
> *School Board President*

in multiple elaborate projects, including the remonstrance concerning the closing of Lafayette Central Elementary School and its corollary redistricting.

Bloom

"During the remonstrance, redistricting and referendum, Mr. Bloom did an excellent job of keeping the meetings moving forward in an orderly fashion," School Board President Mark Gilpin said. "We were dealing with difficult issues, and Mr. Bloom's experience and kind-heartedness helped lead the team toward the best decisions."

Bloom also played a significant role in the search for and hiring of the current superintendent, Dr. Steve Yager, as well as his

▶SEE 'BLOOM,' PAGE 2

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION COMMENDS SCHOOL FOR STELLAR EVALUATION

In a school visit yesterday, Dr. Tony Bennett, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke to a small group of teachers and students concerning this year's unparalleled statewide improvement in education performance, the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Addressing a group of students in the Community Room, Bennett explained how, before the implementation of the new grading scale, SACS would have received a C. Because SACS is already a high achieving district, it was difficult to meet the improvements required for an A rating under the old system.

The new system merged AYP with the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), grading the schools based on graduation rate, End of Course Assessment scores and AP enrollment and garnering SACS an A rating.

"SACS is set apart from the other districts by its attention to detail," Bennett said, citing the district's rigorous grading scale. "The high expectations motivate students to achieve."

Bennett then opened the discussion for questions from the students and staff gathered in the audience. Students posed questions regarding how SACS can continue on its path of success.

Bennett responded by referencing an effort to retool the state incentives program offer monetary incentives for improvement.

Throughout the visit, Bennett commended SACS on its hard work and stressed the importance of education in preparing the students for today's world.

"What we do in educations is the number one thing to drive jobs in the state," Bennett said.

PHOTO BY ETHAN YOE

Dr. Bennett presented Principal Steve Lake with a banner acknowledging the school for achieving an A rating.

▶BLOOM CONTINUED FROM 1

predecessor Dr. Brian Smith. Knowledge and leadership unparalleled in the district school board will be leaving along with Bloom.

"We're losing a lot of institutional and historical knowledge with (Bloom's) departure," Assistant Superintendent Phillip Downs said. "He's been on board for a long time, and with that comes a significant amount of knowledge about the district."

As for future plans, Bloom has decided to give his spot up in order to open it for those who still have children in the district.

Although he will not continue to serve on the School Board, Bloom has determined that he will continue to stay involved in some way.

"After 20 years, I'm still passionate (about public service), but it's a good time to pass on the torch to people who have just as much of an interest as I do," Bloom said. "However, I will be continuing to be interested in and somewhat vocal about the policies of the school."

While thankful for his dedicated service and leadership, Bloom's coworkers and fellow School Board members are sorry to see both his knowledge and understanding leave. His colleagues hope his tenure will be a model for members.

"His leadership...has been a critical component in the continuing success of SACS," Gilpin said. "His tenure on the board is a model for new School Board members."

PHOTO COURTESY JOHN BLOOM

Bloom cites his family as inspiration for his service to the school district. His wife, Gayle Bloom, also was involved SACS as an English teacher at Homestead.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing SACS on behalf of the parents of two Summit Middle School students.

Status: **False**. In response to a lawsuit filed by Linda and John Buchanan, whose daugher attends Summit Middle School, the school board came to the conclusion that they will not allow any more cafeteria visits by youth ministers. As of Oct. 24, however, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has dismissed the lawsuit in light of the board's reformation of previous protocol in handling youth ministers.

The presence of youth ministers in the middle school's cafeteria spurred arguments about the violation of the Establishment Clause, which prohibits the government from determining a state religion

Because of district's updated policy, the lawsuit has been a success for the Buchanan family and other staunch proponents of separation between church and state.

"We're not a bunch of heathens," Linda Buchanan told the Journal Gazette. "We're not anti-religion; we're anti-religion in public schools.

-Ethan Yde

▶FORUM CONTINUED FROM 1

lives of students," Principal Steve Lake said. "Their votes can change a lot: what we fund, what we don't."

In order to allow these candidates to communicate directly with students, faculty and the rest of their constituency, the Spartana organized an unprecedented forum.

Last night, the candidates John Blum, Joe Greco, Mark Gilpin, Jason Kuchmay, Sherry Chapman and Meagan Milne discussed their various views on pressing issues such as the potential renewal of the upcoming referendum and the development of 1:1 Technology.

While the candidates voiced their support for a possible referendum in 2016, they differed in the timeline needed to adequately assess the financial situation as well as the possibility of changes in state funding.

"We can't wait till the last second; we need leadership and experience," District 2 incumbent Gilpin said. "We need to plan like we're going to need it."

District 1 challenger Greco established uncertainty of future state funding at this time.

"We can't really make that decision until we know what our needs are and what funds are coming in," Greco said. "I would support it, but we have to build trust with the taxpayers now."

Without referendum funds, there is a possibility for drastic budget cuts, which could result in the loss of small class sizes as well as a reduction in staff.

"It's imperative that we keep the fine teachers that we have now," At-Large candidate Chapman said. "I support the referendum."

A clear divide emerged between current and former board members and their challengers. Questions arose concerning the transparency of school board policies and minutes.

"In talking to many people, the one thing I've heard over and over again is the need for more transparency with the board," District 2 challenger Kuchmay said. "The current board has become unresponsive."

District 1 incumbent Blum defended the existing school board's efforts to be transparent with the public.

"Our minutes are transparent, and there is consistent reporting going on," Blum said.

All candidates advocated for improvements and expansion of information available to the public through the website, possibly by providing board member bios as well as videotaped meetings.

> "I learned more about the candidates and who I'm actually going to vote for."
>
> **ALEX BUSH (12)**
> *First Time Voter*

Responses varied on candidate opinion on 1:1 Computing from a desire for measured deliberation before commitment to any project of this scale to a push for hasty development of the program.

"I hope the computers can be used to attract student learning and can give reliable access to online learning," At-Large candidate Milne said. "I see them as tools that won't replace teachers but will further enhance the learning."

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Following the forum, the audience members were allowed to speak and interact with the candidates; thus, the audience could know the candidates personally.

Students, teachers and members of the community who attended the forum left feeling more confident in their knowledge about the issues and the candidates' positions.

"I learned more about the candidates and who I'm actually going to vote for," Alex Bush (12) said. "It definitely helped me make a decision."

The inspiration for the student-led forum stemmed from classroom discussion about political rhetoric and courage in English Department Chair Connie Christophersen's AP English Language and Composition class.

"As educators we strive to make education useful and applicable. The students of Spartana have taken what was a class discussion and turned it into one of the most meaningful project-based learning opportunities," Christophersen said. "This is what education is about."

THE QUESTIONS

The candidates were asked to respond to four questions:

1. What characteristics do you have that qualify you to be a school board member?
2. What is the first policy you will change or introduce if elected?
3. What role do you see the 1:1 Computing program having as schools transition into the 21st Century?
4. When the referendum expires in 2016, will you support its renewal? Why or why not?

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

For everything ranging from instant updates about the basketball game to previews for the next Ed Board article, follow us on Twitter @TheSpartana. Scan the QR code below on your smart phone to find us.

▶BLUM CONTINUED FROM 1

education. Our daughters received a great education at SACS, and there is a desire to pay that forward for other families here. I've served on this board for 12+ years. This valuable experience, coupled with my additional background on other boards and committees related to education and economic development provide perspectives in operating as a board to fully support our administration and teaching staff. Finally, my financial background has helped me fully understand the seven funds utilized by the school district to fiscally operate in a responsible manner. Monthly financial reporting is transparent today, unlike 2000 when I came on the board. A liquidity crisis at that time was remedied with some cuts, expense controls and vastly improved, consistent financial reporting to the board. Despite today's fiscal challenges, SACS has the state recommended cash and rainy day reserves of 8+%.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Blum, left, and Greco, right, offer their opinions on future policy changes.

Spartana: What policies will you mainly support, change or introduce if elected?

Blum: The most immediate, revised policy under review is SACS's new Acceptable Use Policy for Technology now that 1:1 has been rolled out for grades 6-12. The board should adopt this very shortly. Most school district policy gets altered or developed by conducting a methodical review of the entire board policy every three to four years to ensure that it is current to administrate operations of the district. Adherence to a disciplined plan of review avoids establishing a policy "on the spot" in reaction to event when objective thinking and decision-making can be difficult. Beyond these efforts, I will push for additional reporting to the board on such topics as extra-curricular activities for students, legislative initiates impacting public education, strategic planning process and more information distributed on our website. Experienced board members recognize that policy development work is typically led by the administration in conjunction with legal counsel.

Spartana: What are the characteristics of the ideal 21st century classroom that you would like to see in our schools?

Blum: This is best described as 21st Century Learning, or a deeper learning environment for all students. This environment brings more creativity into the classroom in conjunction with expanded information resources, more collaboration and effective solutions. SACS students must be prepared to succeed in a global economy and tackle complex issues they will inherit in our world. Thus, "classroom environments" must be recreated to give everyone an opportunity to become an expert learner, whether that is delivered by high or low tech means. Flexibility will be a crucial element in our future success. This will appear not only in students' schedules, but means of delivery to better accommodate diverse learning styles, etc. We will see interactive video streaming to leverage educational resources outside the walls of our schools. Lifelong, expert learners are resourceful and knowledgeable, strategic and goal-oriented and purposeful and motivated. That's the learner we need to create coming out of SACS.

DISTRICT 1

▶GRECO CONTINUED FROM 1

sary to enhance the performance of our schools and improve student achievement over the long run. I have observed the conduct, actions and performance of our current board. Four out of the five members vote as a block with little discussion and no sign of plan, strategy or framework for the future of SACS. We need a vision to transform a district recognized as "good" to one that is admired as "great." The key is not money. It is a state of mind and a relentless focus on excellence. It is time for a board not content with "good enough" but insists on "exceptional." Our school board will benefit from new blood - having more diverse skill sets and viewpoints. I bring a wealth of industrial and business experience emphasizing technology and prudent financial management.

Spartana: What policies will you mainly support, change or introduce if elected?

Greco: One example for change is School Board Policy 1140, Public Participation in Meetings. To achieve successful outcomes under the "Framework for 21st Century Learning," this policy must be revised. The current board often states: "This is not a public meeting, but meeting held in public." This policy should be elevated to embrace communication and collaboration, two essential components of the four learning and innovative skills identified as necessary for student success. The SACS School Board cannot continue to limit public dialogue at the meetings. How can the district leadership expect the student to integrate these essential skills into their core academic subjects when the school board disrespects these key components of the framework? Parental involvement is key to student achievement. Community-school collaboration is a must. Education decisions should be a rigorous vetting process where all parties affected have input and be consulted during its stages of development and implementation.

Spartana: What are the characteristics of the ideal 21st century classroom that you would like to see in our schools?

Greco: World Languages is the one core subject in the "Framework for 21st Century Learning" that is missing for most students at SACS. Ideally, I would like to see foreign language curriculum implemented in the early elementary grades. Regardless of which foreign language is learned, extensive research shows that there are benefits from early immersion, including development of language, literacy, social and coginitive skills that remain with these students throughout their lives. Younger children have a natural ability for learning languages, and thus, foreign language programs which integrate all core subjects should begin in kindergarten. The opportunity to learn about and experience other cultures provides a more global perspective to students' learning. As a result, the significance of the arts, math, history, government, civics, geography, reading, economics, science and technological literacy/fluency comes to the forefront of understanding the role of innovation in preparing to thrive in today's global economy.

THE SPARTANA

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. If any letters are submitted that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day, they will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

'The Diary of Anne Frank' to expose human aspect within Holocaust

By Darby Cook
Writer

The theater department is dedicating this year's fall performance to the Holocaust. It hosted the dynamic play "Life in a Jar" on Oct. 25 and will be performing "The Diary of Anne Frank" this Nov. Based upon a true story, "The Diary of Anne Frank" focuses on a young Jewish girl who is forced into hiding during the Holocaust.

This play is different from past productions in that it is a drama rather than a light-hearted comedy. Past performances included productions like "Hello, Dolly" and "Don't Drink the Water."

"I've wanted to do this play for a long time. It is a fantastic script, and since it's a drama, it gives the students a chance to play deeper, more realistic roles. Also, I believe the play can ignite people to become active within their communities," drama teacher Victoria Malooley said.

Theater student and actor Duncan Smith (11) plays Anne's calm, reliable father, Otto Frank. Smith said his fellow actors are the best part of being in the play.

"With such a small cast, we all get to know each other really well. We talk to each other, and we understand each other. We just have a good time," Smith said.

"The Diary of Anne Frank" serves as a way to honor and remember those who tragically lost their lives as a result of World War II. Over 12 million people died in Nazi extermination camps, and it is vitally important that we learn from humanity's past mistakes instead of attempting to forget them.

"It's a great play and a great story," Smith said. "It has a historical importance and a modern day importance because it can help prevent something like this from happening again."

> "It's unlike any other show we've done previously."
>
> **VICTORIA MALOOLEY**
> *Drama Teacher*

In many advisory classes, students have been learning about the detrimental and heart-wrenching effects of bullying. Malooley said this important theme inspired her to make the change in genre for this year's performance.

"Since advisory has started this year, a lot of advisory classes have been focusing on topics such as responsibility and bullying. I thought these concepts were a perfect match with the message of this play," Malooley said.

In preparation for the fall play, the theater department hosted "Life in a Jar," a play written by several inspired teenagers from Kansas.

"Life in a Jar" left students and faculty anxiously awaiting the performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank."

"It's unlike any other show we've done previously. It has humorous parts but is very true to life characters and a lasting message. It's not your average play," Malooley said.

Duncan Smith (11), who plays Mr. Frank in the play, consoles Dana Bixler (10), who portrays Anne Frank.

'LIFE IN A JAR'

The theater department and history teacher Jon Baker invited students from McCutcheon High School to perform "Life in a Jar," on Thurs, Oct. 25, in the auditorium. This performance focuses on the heroism of Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who saved more than 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto between 1942 and 1943. Sendler worked in an underground resistance movement to find homes in non-Jewish households to keep these children safe.

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIKESELL

▶GILPIN
CONTINUED FROM 1

but solely the interest of the students, teachers, administration, and community. With me, people know what they are getting. There is no risk.

I am cognizant of the fact that we can only keep high achieving staff and administrators if the environment is one where they can excel. I am a firm believer that a big part of our job is empowering others to do their job. We must see the whole picture and not just focus on cutting expenses. Certain expenses are necessary if we are to continue to properly prepare our students to compete in the world when they graduate from school. Our district is very efficient in the way it spends money. It is the Federal Government where waste is prevalent, not our school system.

Spartana: What policies will you mainly support, change or introduce if elected?

Gilpin: I would love to change the hearts and see even more involvement from our community. I was one of the team of board members that pushed for Data Mining. Since we have implemented Data Mining, I have replaced it on my wish list with "more involvement from parents and the community". Because our district has such fantastic and well liked administrators, we are constantly able to get information from other districts. I believe that is the place to get most of our new ideas. There are also publications, forums,

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Gilpin, left, and Kuchmay, right, contemplate responses to a question concerning the referendum while other candidates voice their opinions.

and many other areas where our staff can get new ideas. If a school district or a business thinks that they need turnover to get new ideas, they will soon notice that they now have a problem with brain-drain. In other words, the expertise that has been gained through the years of experience is lost when quality board members are replaced.

Spartana: What are the characteristics of the ideal 21st century classroom that you would like to see in our schools?

Gilpin: We need our classrooms to be "information rich environments". We need to be teaching students how to be "Adaptive Leaders". We need to inspire "Personal Investment". We need to be teaching in a way that "Continues Outside the Walls of the Classroom". We need to prepare our students for an "Unpredictable Future". We need to "Transcend the Boundaries of Yesterday's School's Boundaries". We need to "Inspire Value on the Learning Experience". We need to "Combine Efforts to Resist the Status-Quo-Sustaining Nature of our Institution and Seek to Define and Implement Learning 2.0". These are things our district looks at. Our incredible Teachers and Administrators are trained professionals. It is counter-productive for a board to impose ideas on the true experts. It will shut down the communication between the board and the experts that are in the trenches. Currently that communication is full of trust. We must not take unnecessary risks.

DISTRICT 2

▶KUCHMAY
CONTINUED FROM 1

it is a position that fits well with my skill set. I acknowledge that we are blessed to have good schools in the district but, as with anything, there is always room for improvement. My experience as a litigation attorney requires critical thinking which would be an asset to the board. Moreover, having three kids in three different district schools provides me with a perspective that is not present on the existing board, and provides me with a vested interest in the success of the district. That perspective will change and grow as my children advance through elementary school, middle school, and then on to high school. I look forward to being part of that.

Spartana: What policies will you mainly support, change or introduce if elected?

Kuchmay: I hear from many parents that are frustrated with the manner in which the board operates, and I will support a policy of board transparency. An informed public is an educated public and they should have trust in and be confident that the board members are acting in their best interests.

This could include: (i) timely and detailed agendas, (ii) meaningful minutes, (iii) efforts to keep contituents adequately informed of major initiatives, (iv) televising board meetings, and (v) avoiding conflicts.

Additionally, I will be mindful of the fact that the board oversees the spending of public funds and I would strive to look for the best use of those funds. When faced with major initiatives, I will ask questions to allow myself to make informed decisions. For example, is the matter before the board a need or a want? Are there better ways to approach it? How will it enhance the students' education? Board members have much responsibility and care should be taken in the exercise of that responsibility

Spartana: What are the characteristics of the ideal 21st century classroom that you would like to see in our schools?

Kuchmay: The ideal 21st century classroom would include small class sizes where students are actively engaged. It would also include the meaningful utilization of technology. College students conduct online research. Individuals rely on computers daily in their workplace. Providing students with the necessary skills is essential. Moreover, technology can enhance learning. One example might be to use Skype to bring guest lecturers to the students from afar. Ideally, students will have computers available that have adequate specifications for their intended use, and the classroom would have the necessary supporting infrastructure (including multiple outlets for students to charge their computers). Most importantly, the district and the teachers should have a plan in place for the proper incorporation of technology into lesson plans. Computers should not be expensive typewriters.

▶CHAPMAN
CONTINUED FROM 1

Chapman explains her plans to make SACS students competitive in a global economy.

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

our kids through all 12 grades at Southwest Allen County Schools. We love this community. I believe if you want something to be great, you get involved and make it happen. I have done that by volunteering in the schools and serving on the school board for two terms. My experience on the board and the things we were able to accomplish make me qualified. Our teachers are the ones on the frontlines, and I want to make sure they have all they need to succeed. If our teachers are empowered, then our students will excel.

Spartana: What policies will you mainly support, change or introduce if elected?

Chapman: Our number one job as a school board member is to protect our students. A policy that I believe in and support is our No-bullying policy. A safe environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high standards. Bullying knows no gender or economic background. All kids are affected by it. There is a review of all policies every few years to ensure they are current and applicable to the present day. The most current policy being adopted by the school board is the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology.

Spartana: What are the characteristics of the ideal 21st century classroom that you would like to see in our schools?

Chapman: I believe that many of the 21st Century skills are already present in our schools. Critical thinking, problem solving, evaluation, and collaboration to name a few. I believe the following things should be present to create a valuable learning experience: a comfortable and positive environment, motivation, access to broadband, a feeling of community, and collaboration. I agree with our school district, in that we need to ensure that our students are constantly learning and adapting to a world that is being transformed by technology. I believe that technology is one tool that we use to achieve 21st Century outcomes.

AT-LARGE

▶MILNE
CONTINUED FROM 1

supporting their teachers and schools, in classrooms, at events, running fundraisers, as PTO president, in Carmel and here. Upon realizing that SACS would lose its only Board member who is a lawyer, friends encouraged me to run for that seat. Having handled hundreds of appellate cases, including employment law issues, business disputes, Constitutional questions, and criminal matters, I knew I could provide a legal perspective. As a mediator with other Board experience, I would add an open, consensus-seeking presence. Having two children currently enrolled in SACS, I have immediate knowledge of issues facing students and can best evaluate the practical impact of Board policies. Being a taxpaying property owner, I'd strive for excellence in education for all children in a fiscally responsible manner.

Spartana: What policies will you mainly support, change or introduce if elected?

Milne: I would seek to improve transparency and open communication with our community by encouraging more detailed Board minutes and agendas, agreeing to the possible videotaping of Board meetings, promoting broader use of our SACS website, and supporting ad hoc committees to solicit relevant knowledge from our residents. I would like to examine evidence regarding the ideal schedule to enhance learning for our students and best utilize resources. Given compelling data analysis, I would be open to block schedules in both middle schools and at Homestead. Understanding that facilities must be maintained, I would support thoughtful spending and would consider potential partnerships with interested community donors. I believe that small class sizes and excellent teachers and staff must be retained. Other areas I wish to explore include parity and sharing among the elementary schools, safety, wellness, foreign language and science offerings, and grading scale and weighting comparisons with other high-performing districts.

Spartana: What are the characteristics of the ideal 21st century classroom that you would like to see in our schools?

Milne: In my opinion, ideal 21st century classrooms include highly effective teachers who are facilitators of student learning and who create environments where children and young adults can develop the skills necessary for success in the future workplace. Collaborative, project-based curriculum can be used to teach critical thinking, hone effective communication skills, and provide opportunities to master technology. Curriculum should be relevant, appropriate, vigorous, and peer-reviewed. While I believe that students need to learn to ask questions, gather information, and analyze findings, certain traditional memorization is still important. I view performance-based assessments as necessary tools to determine student comprehension and to assist in differentiating instruction for each child, perhaps integrating technology to assist with individualizing lessons. I feel that SACS does a great job in many of these regards, and I would support continued, research-based improvements to best prepare our students to be productive members of our ever-changing, competitive world.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Milne responds to follow-up questions from the audience members directly following the forum.

GOP's stance on abortion, 3

PHOTO FROM USATODAY.COM

EDITOR'S NOTE

Publication's forum allows public to hear candidates' platform

By Joe Laughlin
Editor In Chief

It began with an idea.

As I lay awake at 1 a.m. on Wed, Oct. 17, I sprung an far-reaching idea: to have the Spartana staff host the school board candidates in some kind of public forum.

By 2:30 p.m. on Fri, Oct. 19, I sat across from SACS Superintendent Dr. Steven Yager, Principal Steve Lake and Assistant Publications Adviser Justin Peeper who told me: your staff will make this happen.

In a matter of two days, Publications Adviser Rodd Kuhn, Peeper and my colleagues and I worked around the clock to detail the newspaper's first School Board Candidate Forum. We were determined to invite the six candidates to Homestead for a public forum in which four members of the Editorial Board would pose one question each for the candidates. The candidates would have three uninterrupted minutes to respond, and they also could offer a two-minute closing statement at the end.

The planning and organization—especially under the uncompromising two-week schedule—would be an extensive feat to accomplish.

By Fri, Oct. 29, the candidates had to be contacted and offered the opportunity to participate in the forum. Every word written on behalf of the Spartana had to be precise; we could not leave room for ambiguity or misinterpretation. The dates for the confirmation of participation, the submission of a personal profile, the photo shoot and the forum were identified at this time as well.

The Editorial Board next had to formulate the questions for the forum. Based on the candidates' responses to the personal profiles, the first question asked the candidates how certain qualifications made each of them the best candidate for the position. The second question asked them to elaborate on a specific policy they defended, criticized or proposed in their profiles.

> "It began with an idea, grew with hard work and transformed into a cordial, smoothly run public forum."
>
> **JOE LAUGHLIN**

For the next two questions about 1:1 Computing and the referendum, which is set to expire in 2016, SACS Business Manager Jim Coplen verified statistics that were presented at the forum. Moreover, we contacted Dr. Andrew Downs at the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics to help retain objectivity in all questions posed at the forum.

Downs facilitated the preparation of the event's script, and he also sat at the moderators' table to keep time.

After finalizing the content of the forum, we enlisted the help of all district schools and local media outlets to raise awareness of our forum, which was held open to the public.

The set-up of the auditorium to hold the forum required equally as much planning. With the assistance of Suellen Kipp, music teacher at Woodside Middle School, the students of the publications department orchestrated the preparation of tables and table cloths, lighting and sound equipment and placement of materials on stage.

It began with an idea, grew with hard work and transformed into a cordial, smoothly run public forum. The Spartana served its community by informing eligible-to-vote students and SACS district members about the candidates for the School Board.

I am incredibly proud of and thankful for the assistance of the publications department, the school and district administrations to complete the first SACS School Board Candidate Forum.

NOTICE

For segmented video recordings of the forum, feel free to visit the SACS district website home page at www.sacs.k12.in.us.

Confusion ensues at U.S. embassy

Administration slow to recognize incident as terrorist attack

By Devin Wright
Writer

The United States Consulate building in Benghazi, Libya was attacked on Sept. 11. The Obama Administration initially credited the attack to riots of Muslims outraged over an anti-Islam YouTube video, stating that the attack was not planned or organized in any way. Despite the evidence that the attack had been premeditated, the administration continued to blame the video for two weeks.

For several months leading up to the attack, concise and violent actions occurred in and around the United States Consulate, making it clear that attack was far from sporadic. On April 6, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was thrown over the consulate fence. A nearby British Embassy was attacked and set on fire along with other NATO embassies. The United States Embassy called for help and additional security on May 3 after one of its ranking personnel was attacked, yet the request was denied. On June 6, a large IED destroyed enough of the U.S. Consulate's nine-foot wall "for 40 men to go through," according to a letter from the subcommittee on National Security.

A British ambassador and his bodyguards were attacked on June 10. Nobody was killed, but the British Consulate was closed. In late June, the international Red Cross building was attacked, forcing it to shut down. This additional attack left the United States flag the only international flag flying in Benghazi, which raised tremendous security concerns yet received no additional security. On Sept. 8, the U.S. Embassy was warned about deteriorating security; finally, on Sept. 11, the Embassy was attacked, and four were killed.

Obviously ample warning was given of the attack on the embassy and surely some defensive measure could have taken place, but this could simply be large oversight. What can't be credited as a mere oversight is the administration's complete ignorance of the evidence to the nature of the attack.

The timeline of events after the attack make it clear that the administration knew the true intent of the Muslim terrorists. Just two hours after the attack, the administration, along with many others, was sent emails detailing what was happening as it was discovered in real time, including emails that revealed the terrorist group Ansar al-Sharia had openly claimed responsibility for the attack. Despite this intelligence, the administration continued to blame the video.

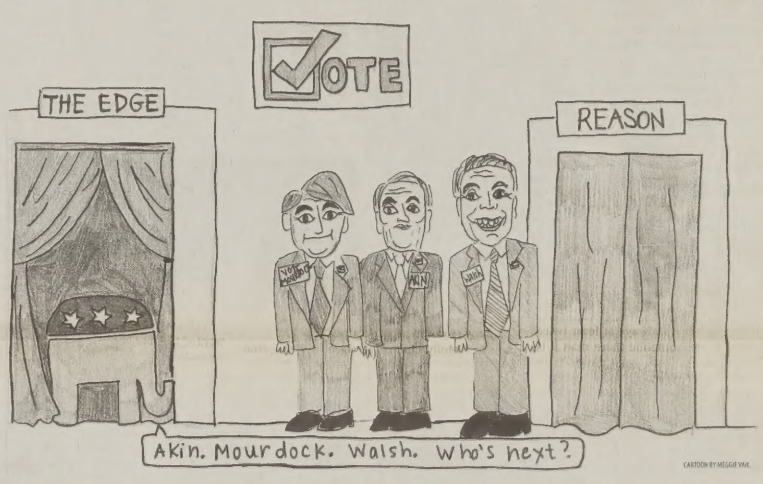
On Sept. 14, Press Secretary Jay Carney denied the administration having "actionable intelligence indicating an attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi was planned or imminent," yet by Sept. 26, published reports were released showing U.S. intel agencies and the Obama Administration knew within 24 hours that the attack was affiliated with al-Qaeda.

There was never any protest. The State Department never linked the video to the attack. This oversight begs the question, why did the Obama Administration link the attacks to the video? Some say he didn't, that in his Rose Garden Speech he called it an act of terror. This claim is false. He was not referring to the Benghazi attack, as made evident by his many accusations toward the YouTube video for the two weeks after and even in that very speech.

HISTORY REPEATS

Similar to the attack on the embassy in Benghazi, the recent film "Argo" tells the story of the rescue mission of six Americans hiding in the Canadian Ambassador's residence in Tehran, Iran during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. During this crisis, militant Iranians took more than 60 Americans in the embassy hostage. They were held for a total of 444 days.

SOURCE: PBS.ORG



CARTOON BY MEGGIE YAK

Social conservatives go over edge of reason with abortion comments

By Colton Shaffer
Copy Editor

It's no wonder social conservatives are the butt of most political jokes. Frankly, you have to laugh to keep from crying. Indiana Republican Senatorial candidate Richard Mourdock made national headlines after a televised debate with his ignorant, no-exception pro-life stance: "Even when life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that is something God intended to happen." Mourdock is a perfect example of a politically- and religiously-fueled, self-righteous male who fancies himself intelligent enough to make laws that completely ignore a woman's legal right to choose. His actions could demolish 40 years of hard-fought feminist progress, and his misguided, misogynistic views have no place in American politics.

Today, abortion is one of the most hotly contested political issues facing American politics, but it really isn't deserving of the honor. Nearly 40 years ago, the Supreme Court examined Roe v. Wade and deemed the right to an abortion fundamental within the Constitution, placing all attempts to restrict this essential right under strict scrutiny. Of course abortion is never any woman's first choice, but it needs to be legal and available for any woman who does arrive to that conclusion. If Mourdock were able to pass legislation that completely aligned with his views, hypothetically a 13-year-old girl who was raped by her father would be unable to have an abortion. In this day and age, this possibility is completely unacceptable and inexcusable.

Furthermore, the very fact that Mourdock uses the beliefs of a religious institution to influence his judgment and political decision making is intolerable. As the United States is a country based on the ideal of religious freedom and is not tied to any specific dogma, a politician's religion should neither intermingle with nor cloud his supposedly logic-based thought process. It's not a politician's job to inject his religion's agenda into his political decisions. This truth is evident in several examples in American history, including the unanimously ratified Treaty of Tripoli pointing out that "the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." God is not a source to cite for any political views, much less a justification for misogynistic prejudice.

Mourdock is only the most recent politician to pontificate on the reproductive rights of women. Representative Todd Akin from Missouri made national headlines with his shockingly misinformed belief that in a "legitimate rape" the "female body has ways to shut that whole thing down," making pregnancy impossible. If it weren't bad enough, Representative Joe Walsh from Illinois, citing unnamed "advances in science and technology," went over the edge with his assertion that abortion is never necessary to save the life of the mother. It's unacceptable that these men were elected to public office.

Mourdock should be ashamed for hinting in anyway he believes pregnancy through rape is the will of God and should not be any factor in swaying his beliefs on a woman's right to safe and legal abortion. Not only has Mourdock made himself look foolish; he's shown America the type of public official the voters of Indiana elect to political office. Hoosiers should be embarrassed.

twitter take

Every Sunday night Joe Laughlin will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Twitter.

Question: "How did you react to Mourdock's statement that pregnancy as a result of rape is 'something that God intended to happen?"

@Magaroni_cheese - Maggie Reecer (11) ▶ "I think he is saying that he believes everything happens for a reason and that every child should be given a chance at life."

@Yo_Its_CHRANDO - Chris Anderson (12) ▶ "God never intends on someone getting raped, but the life he creates is predestined."

@Karah_Kiefer - Karah Kiefer (12) ▶ "God doesn't make mistakes, however the women who are put in that situation can decide what to do with their bodies."

@TheKeeblerCooki - Mason Keebler (11) ▶ "Personally, Joe, I felt disturbed. In all honesty, I believe that Mourdock should not be voted for, rather, voted against."

@MOllyRancher - Molly Ray (12) ▶ "No baby is a mistake...with the exception of Mourdock."

SACS adopts necessary policy change

The ashamedly long-standing, yet unstable blending of church and state became murkier with the recent filing of a federal lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union against SACS. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of the parents of a student at Summit, called into question the school's practice of allowing a youth pastor from a local church to engage the students in discussion during their lunches.

According to the lawsuit, Summit's allowance of the minister to attend the lunches, while other persons not affiliated with the school were not, represents an endorsement of religious beliefs and thus a violation of the Constitution, a violation that must not be allowed to continue.

Public schools, by their very definition, receive funding from the federal government, which means they receive money from taxpayers. These taxpayers do not provide money so that their children can be taught subjects that have no academic merit. If parents had wanted their children to go to school in an environment that endorsed a specific religion, they would have sent them to parochial schools. But as that is clearly not the case, Summit has no business making that very personal decision for them.

It seems as though SACS is trying to coerce or enforce a specific type of thinking, an action that flies in the face of the fundamental freedoms of America. This is a nation of many different cultures, religions and modes of thinking. It is only natural that the students of a public school should mirror this diversity, and the instant officials at that public school discourage that diversity is the instant they lose sight of what it truly means to be an American.

While the district superintendent has since informed the ministers that their visitations are henceforth cancelled, it should never have been at the behest of the threat of a lawsuit. Following the district's action, the lawsuit was dismissed.

Perhaps a moment of silence should be reserved during the day to remember why the fundamental concepts of the Constitution should be upheld and the dangers that exist when they are not. Hats off to the courageous few who help police the follies of the many.

The Ed Board

Joe Laughlin — Tori Barnard
Laura Zweig — Clair Pranger
Dani Castonzo — Ryan Boylan

{The Bottom Line} *The SACS administration ought to be commended for its decision to prohibit the presence of youth ministers in district lunchrooms.*

PHOTO COURTESY NIC PELLETIER

Benefits found in awkward moments

I'd estimate that at least five awkward or embarrassing things happen to me per day. I trip in the hallway or spill coffee on my pants. I end up on the treadmill across from an acquaintance at the gym and make uncomfortable eye contact with him for 30 minutes. I get stuck in line behind a past teacher at the grocery store and engage in bad small talk about how much I've grown and where I'm applying to college. I get excited and stumble over my words like a five-year-old with a stutter. I ask friends I haven't seen in a while about their pets and discover that they recently died.

People tend to take awkward moments so personally, as if they're the only one who ever winked at the wrong person or fell down a flight of stairs. So here's a list of some awkward moments that we've all experienced and can all relate to:

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

1. The not-so-smooth entrance: We've all been here. You walk a little too eagerly onto a wet or slippery floor, and you go down. Papers fly, phones break, people stare. There's no way of saving this situation. So you stand, gather your papers and what little dignity you have left and waik away.

2. The accidental insult by association: You're at a social event of some kind and say something along the lines of, "That girl (insert name) isn't the brightest light bulb in the box." Although you know and your friends know that she truly isn't, you don't know that her boyfriend/close friend/distant cousin is standing right behind you until it's too late. He mentions the association; you quickly pretend like it was another person with the same name and avoid him for the rest of your life.

3. The gym run-in: I don't know what it is about the gym, but it's always at least twice as awkward to see someone there than it is to see him at, say, Walgreens. It's not weird to see your math teacher at the library, but it's super uncomfortable to run into him doing push-ups in the weight room. It's okay to see a friend of a friend at the movie theater, but again, not okay when she ends up next to you on the treadmill. I don't know if it's the sweat or the jogging, but I always leave those situations wishing I'd skipped my work out that day.

4. The unanswered greeting: You're walking down a crowded hallway and spot a friend at the other end. "HEY," you shout, waving your arm, "wait up!" Although he really does like you, he doesn't hear and continues on his way, leaving you alone with a group of people who now doubt that you have any friends.

5. The misdirected greeting: You see someone with blue eyes and brown hair that looks a lot like your blue-eyed, brown-haired friend and enthusiastically wave at her. Not your friend. You pretend you were just swatting at a bee, but the damage is done.

What I'm saying is that awkward things happen to everyone. I've learned to embrace these moments when life doesn't go the way it's supposed to. It's time to stop avoiding these situations and to make the decision not to care. People expect their lives to be like a movie, all smooth entrances and exits, but we don't get a script to follow in real life. I've learned it's okay to say or do the wrong thing sometimes. Life goes on, and so do you.

they were here for four years. four years of clubs and friends and dances and late nights and homework. four years spent waiting for a cap and a diploma. but where are they now?

Former students excel in journalism, theater, college life

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Executive Editor

The tassel has been turned, the pomp has been circumstanced and the diplomas have been received. Four long years at Homestead culminated in one, alphabetical-by-last-name ceremony. The royal blue robe serves as a badge to indicate where one has been but offers no guidance toward the future. Where does one go from here?

Though he only graduated last June, Londen Shannon ('12) has already made great strides toward his future career. Best known for anchoring the morning and video announcements and starring in various plays, Shannon decided on a theater major.

"I picked my major because acting is the only thing I can see myself doing in my life, and it's the only thing I've ever wanted to do," Shannon, who attends Loyola University in Chicago, said.

Besides participating in Loyola's main stage production of "Illuminating Voices," Shannon also made his small screen debut, filming an episode for the new NBC firefighter drama "Chicago Fire."

In addition to providing platforms to share his talent, Shannon also credits his time at Homestead as a practice run for life outside of high school.

"Homestead did prepare me for the real world, especially academically," Shannon said. "I don't think some of the classes I'm taking would be so easy if it weren't for my Homestead education."

Molly Quinn ('11) agrees, saying that the education she received at Homestead gave her a solid foundation on which to expand.

"The English department prepared me for all the papers I've had to write so far," Quinn said. "I feel like I know what I'm doing and can crank out an A paper while some of my classmates struggle with writing."

Following graduation, Quinn attended Indiana University for her freshman year but had a less-than-satisfactory experience.

"I didn't like it there. I thought it was really overrated," Quinn said.

She is currently studying management with a minor in Spanish and enjoying her time at Purdue University. A varsity member of the dance team her junior and senior years, Quinn continued with her passion, dancing for a club called Higher Grounds. Quinn attributes part of her affection to the sorority she joined.

"I joined Delta Gamma this year and have met so many awesome people. Being a part of Greek life opens so many doors and opportunities," Quinn said.

While Quinn focuses on her studies, Michael Buchanan ('10) juggles schoolwork and a job. He works as the creative director of a small Bloomington-based web development firm called DreamShare.

"We just released our first major project, www.badaboom.co, that provides a social platform to share your favorite videos on the web, any format," Michael Buchanan said.

Michael Buchanan, a junior at Indiana University in Bloomington, is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in graphic design.

"I chose IU originally by default, really. I wanted to go to some fancy art school far away, but for financial reasons I decided to stay in state," Michael Buchanan said. "Having said that, it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Bloomington is a great town, littered with opportunities; I'm extremely fortunate to be here."

While at Homestead, he won a Scholastic Art Award for his portfolio in 2010.

"The art department, Mrs. Jones in particular, was an invaluable resource in getting me on my feet as a visual artist. More than anything they provided me with the confidence necessary to make something of yourself, no matter what you decide to do," Michael Buchanan said.

Michael Buchanan's brother Larry ('07) also took advantage of Homestead to further his interest in journalism. Larry Buchanan was an executive editor of the Spartana in 2006 and 2007.

"Mr. Kuhn let us really take charge and do what we wanted to do (with the Spartana). We felt a huge sense of ownership of what we did," Larry Buchanan said.

Larry Buchanan viewed his time on the Spartana as a trial run for his future.

"It was a great experience and fantastic time and really set up what I'm doing now," Larry Buchanan said.

Larry Buchanan graduated from Indiana University with a degree in journalism and worked as a freelance journalist.

Despite having moved to New York City, Larry Buchanan occasionally reminisces about his Homestead days.

"I miss the community of people that you know will be there, that you can rely on," Larry Buchanan said. "Homestead gave me some insight into what the real world would be like."

▶78
percent of graduates in 2011 pursued higher education at a college or a university

SOURCE: WWW.SACS.K12.IN.US

IN RETROSPECT

CLASS OF 2007

Larry Buchanan: *National Honor Society, Prom Court, Homecoming Court, Spartana, Student Government, Lacrosse, Football, Track*

CLASS OF 2010

Michael Buchanan: *Student Government, Prom Court, Art Club, Homecoming Court, National Honor Society, Lacrosse, Variety Show*

CLASS OF 2011

Molly Quinn: *JV Dance Team, Varsity Dance Team, Key Club, Dirty Duckers, Variety Show. Most likely to become a model.*

CLASS OF 2012

FILE PHOTOS

Londen Shannon: *Homecoming Court, Drama Club, HHS OnDemand, Catch Phrase Club, French Club, Dance Marathon*

Student earns pilot's license

Says of first flight: 'most distinct' moment of his life

Pilot Nic Pelletier (12) has wanted to fly airplanes as long as he can remember, and at just 18 years old, he's living the dream. In a recent interview, the Spartana caught up with Pelletier to discuss the challenges that come with flying and the training he needed to overcome those obstacles.

Spartana: How did you first get interested in flying?

Pelletier: Flying is one of those things that you're just born loving. Some kids wanted to grow up to become firemen, some policemen, but I wanted to be a pilot. I always loved being in airports and being around airplanes. As a kid, my happy place was sitting on a commercial aircraft traveling somewhere. I was always excited to land and to go to the flight deck to talk to the pilots.

Spartana: When did you start taking flying lessons and who taught you?

Pelletier: I started my ground school classroom in 2008 at the Fort Wayne Flight Academy. I was in eighth grade. I was the youngest in the class by at least twenty years, but I was also one of the most knowledgeable. My first flight logged was in 2008. The problem was I was fourteen at the time. The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) states that you must be 15 to take the private pilot written exam, 16 to solo an aircraft and 17 to hold a Private Pilot License. I had three years to rack up a lot of flight hours. The FAA says that you need 40 flight hours to be eligible to test for a license. My check ride (the test fly Pelletier with a Cessna 182H, the plane that he most frequently flies. He earned his piloting license on a Cessna 152. He has also logged time in a Cessna 172, a Piper Club and a Candair Regional Jet 700 simulator, which is a commercial plane that flies in Fort Wayne.

PHOTO COURTESY NIC PELLETIER

itself) was on my 101st hour.

Spartana: What was your first flight like?

Pelletier: My first flight is kind of a blur now, but it was one of the most distinct moments in my life. It was amazing knowing that I had full control over this machine going really fast in the air.

Spartana: How many hours do you spend practicing and what do you think you need to practice the most?

Pelletier: Right now, since I have my license, I don't really need to practice much. I'm hoping to get onto the aerobatic team in my freshman year of college. I'm going to the University of North Dakota to major in Commercial Aviation and Aviation Management, and I'm going to minor in Physics.

Senior students explore colleges, careers on excused PSAT test day

BY KATE TROUTMAN
Writer

After three years and two PSAT testing days, seniors finally reaped the benefits of their hard work. While the freshmen endured an information session and the sophomores and juniors sat for the PSAT, seniors were able to take the day off to job shadow or college visit .

The unlucky seniors that came to school endured a four hour study hall before joining the underclassmen for shortened class periods.

> "I had been looking forward to PSAT Day my senior year because in the twelve years I've lived (here), I've never seen where my dad works."
>
> **JAMIE BAER (12)**
> *Job Shadow Participant*

On Wed, Oct. 17, many seniors chose to job shadow. For senior Jamie Baer (12), PSAT Day was an opportunity to finally accompany her father at his job for an unofficial "take your daughter to work day."

"I had been looking forward to PSAT Day my senior year because in the twelve years I've lived in Fort Wayne, I had never seen where my dad works," Baer said.

Baer spent the day at Miller's Health Systems in Warsaw, Ind., where she gained insight about her father's daily responsibilities and routine around his company.

"It was exciting to meet all of his coworkers and observe what goes on in the office during a typical day," Baer said.

Another option given to seniors by the school was a chance to take the day to college visit.

"I visited Centre College in the bustling metropolis of Danville, Ky., because I might run track there," Cameron Dark (12) said.

While visiting Centre College, Dark talked to an admissions officer, took a walking tour of the school and wrapped up the visit with a pillow fight.

"It was a blast," Dark said.

Other students simply took advantage of the day off by calling in sick that day.

Regardless of what option each student chose to participate in, students found the day off as a welcome change of scenery. The only complaint was the break should be longer.

"PSAT Day is like a holiday in its own right, and happens to be my third favorite holiday after Christmas and Flag Day," Dark said.

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

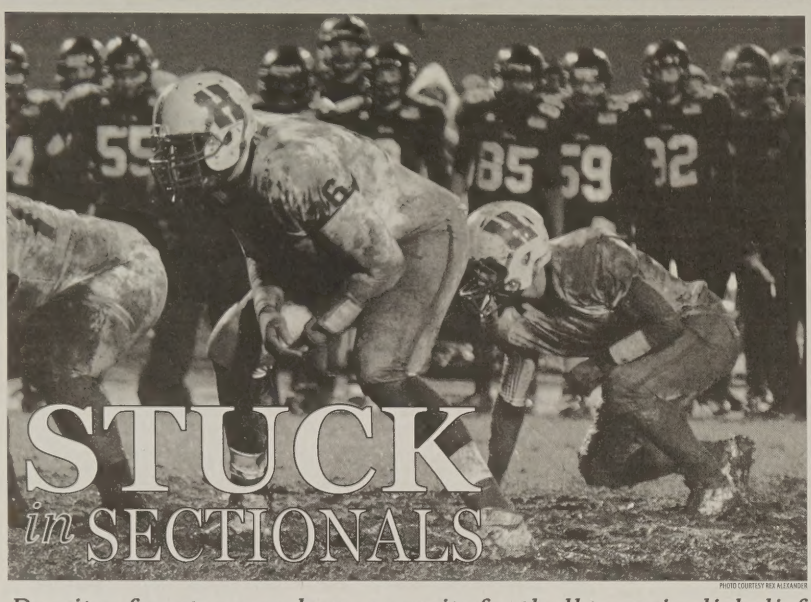


PHOTO COURTESY REX ALEXANDER

STUCK in SECTIONALS

Brevity of postseason leaves varsity football team in disbelief

By Matt Barbish
Writer

Wide receiver Seth Coate (12) wiped mud off his helmet as he looked at the scoreboard one last time. He could not believe the last football game he would play would end abruptly with a 30-20 loss against a perennial rival, Snider.

Both teams came into the game with an undefeated record of 9-0, and both were ranked in the Top 10 of the 5A Indiana Football Coaches Association State Poll. Snider was ranked second in the poll, while the Spartans were ranked eighth.

The history between the two teams made this Sectional draw particularly interesting. Since 1995, the Panthers and the Spartans have met in Sectionals 13 times; most importantly, the winner has always gone on to win the Sectional championship. The game meant more than just one victory; it was revenge for all losses in the past.

"Personally, (playing Snider is) a huge rivalry game for me," Coate said.

Immediately after kick-off, the Spartans struggled, particularly defensively, as Snider scored on its first three possessions. This momentum allowed Snider to jump out to a staggering 23-0 lead, following an unfortunate interception. At this climax, it seemed as though a Spartan loss was inevitable, but the team remained resilient and would not give up.

"(The players) have tremendous heart and perseverance," Head Coach Chad Zolman said. "The team is one of the hardest working teams we have had here at Homestead. They had a great attitude every day."

Running back Grayson Bastin (12) sparked the boost the team needed by diving in for a rushing touchdown just before halftime, making the score 23-7. For the senior players, this departure was the second time the Spartans left the field down at halftime.

> "The team is one of the hardest working teams we have had here at Homestead. They had a great attitude everyday."
>
> **CHAD ZOLMAN**
> *Head Football Coach*

In an interview with Indiana's News Center, Snider's Head Coach Kurt Tippman explained that he anticipated the Spartans to enter the second half with energy.

"You better be ready for a game, (because) they're coming right at us," Tippman said.

After the half, the Spartans continued to push for a comeback. After a long drive down the cold, muddy field, running back Frank Martin (12) rushed for a touchdown, while dragging a Snider defender behind him. His rushing touchdown cut the Panther lead to 23-14, keeping the team within striking distance of completing a historic comeback.

The Spartans controlled the tempo in the third quarter and shifted the momentum in their favor. However, early in the fourth quarter, Snider reacted with a rushing touchdown that established a commanding 30-14 lead.

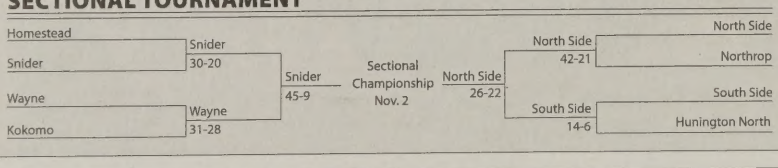
Notorious for their resilience, the Spartans fought back with a touchdown of their own, putting the team within 10 points. After recovering an onside kick, the team worked toward completing the comeback, late in the game. However, the team struggled to move the ball down the muddy field.

With their white uniforms blackened from the dirt, the team faced a fourth down, outside of field goal range. Quarterback Matt Skowronek (12) hiked the ball and dropped back, looking down field toward the end zone, and threw toward Coate. However, the ball fell incomplete and with three minutes left, their perfect season was in jeopardy.

The game would end with the same score of 30-20, a heart-breaking loss for the team after its successful 9-0 regular season. As discouraging as it was for the team, the loss displayed its resiliency and perseverance, never giving up or ceasing to fight for a victory.

"It was very disappointing to lose to Snider because we all wanted to show them what we're made of," Coate said.

SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT



Team overcomes fifteen-year slump

Members of boys' cross country team triumph at Semi-State competition

By Tyler Koteskey
Sports Editor

Fifteen years of disappointment were avenged as the boys' cross country team managed to earn a place in the State championship for the first time since 1996.

"For the last fifteen years, the team has failed to reach the championship race. In order to break our losing streak, we concentrated more on race strategies this year," Ben Haberly (12) said. "More focus in practice and greater will and determination allowed us to overcome our losing streak and advance to the State race."

PHOTO BY SHELBY BELLINGSKEY

Max Dvorak (12) turns a corner behind Sam Moore (11). Out of the 194 boys that participated in the Semi-State meet, Dvorak and Moore placed 150 and 108, respectively.

The athletes did not place as competitively as they anticipated, as the team finished in 22nd overall at the State competition. Despite the results, the athletes still take pride in advancing to State.

"Our goal all season was to make it to state, and I think we definitely overcame a lot to get that far," Max Dvorak (12), varsity runner, said. "We all wish we could have finished a few spots ahead, but I think we're all very satisfied with how we made it to State."

The team earned 2nd place at Semi-State, which was an improvement from its previous rank as 4th out of 20 teams, as well as the best Semi-State finish in preceding teams' history.

"Of the last two meets, Semi-State definitely proved the most to us. Upsetting two strong teams, Bishop Dwenger and Northridge, proved to us that we can compete with the best in the state," Dvorak said. "We have a lot of talent coming into this season, but at Semi State, our determination and drive set us apart."

Ironically, this year's runners did not start the season off with high expectations. They kept their confidence in check, knowing that they had the talent to make it far but not anticipating anything superior to previous years.

"This year's team was really special because the number of talented, driven runners we have gave us great depth," Dvorak said. "From the very start of the summer practices we knew we had something special this year, but we never thought we had a State team for sure. We just kept focused on giving 100 percent every day."

Team captain, Max Silcox (12) has not only been an asset to the team's scores in past years, but he has now altered his role to the team this season as a result of not being able to compete. Leading the cross country team his freshman, sophomore and junior year, Silcox had high hopes for his senior season.

Unfortunately, Silcox began to experience medical problems at the end of last year's season. The unknown virus, originally thought to be a low-grade mono, weakened the runner's ability to train; thus, this illness caught his attention towards the end of last year as he struggled to regain his peak performance.

"I was extremely disappointed because I had fallen short for the team and myself the last two years. I figured that this year would be the year to redeem myself," Silcox said.

The runner's times significantly dropped, and he had every intention of voluntarily running for JV if his goals continued to remain unmet.

After taking essential time off to recover and train, Silcox eventually knew he would not be capable of running the way he used to; however, he remained supportive of his teammates throughout the season.

"They are capable of operating without me. They are a strong team who can get through any kind of adversity," Silcox said.

End of career forces regretful realization

The temperature had fallen enough to make me shiver as I glanced across the field soon after the Regional Semi-Finals on Thursday, Oct. 11, at Carroll High School's soccer stadium. I was struck by the emptiness of the field, which the black night sky perpetuated. I always felt like it would end here.

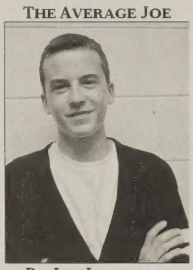
Twenty minutes earlier, the teams from Homestead and Dekalb fought ruthlessly on this field. Players kicked at one another's ankles, clawed at their opponents' jerseys and barked at teammates and officials.

The passion within each of these athletes forced him to be foolish and brash. It felt like a fire in the pit of his stomach, which tip-toed up through his chest until it tickled the back of his throat. He wanted to win.

I did too.

This passion began for me at an early age. By the time I was six years old, I enlisted in the army of a recreational team at the Fort Wayne Sport Club. Every practice was boot camp; every game was a battle.

The Average Joe



My games, however, differentiated from war slightly. If you falter in battle, you take cover. When I faltered in a game, I cried.

By Joe Laughlin
Editor in Chief

My competitive spirit earned me a place on the Sport Club's travel team, which jump-started my soccer career. Coaches Jim Huth and Bill Hanford did their best to channel my ruthless attitude into a team-oriented mindset and a mature skillset.

I did not take well to authority, however, and I am sure they remember my innumerable temper tantrums, my refusal to cooperate and my irrefutable belief that I was right. They tried to prepare me for future coaches, and most importantly, for future bosses. Some of it resonated with me, but I discarded most of it with the shaking of my head on the sidelines of a soccer field.

My skills progressed as I aged, which led to a brief stint in the Indiana Olympic Development Program and a trip to Rockford, Ill., to compete with teams from neighboring states. This program immersed me in high-caliber soccer. The program enhanced the fire inside my stomach and drove me to retain my romantic vision of the sport.

I returned home to play under Casa Ristaurante owner Jim Casaburo, who drove me to improve my skills even further. I practiced juggling a soccer ball for hours on my front lawn. On Saturday mornings, I rode my bike across the dew-soaked grass to shoot on the goals at a public park next to the local YMCA. In the field behind my house, I made my father boot the ball as high as he could so I could practice settling it with minimal touches. I even forced the football captain Elijah Zavala (12) to play me in one-on-one games so I could practice my skills.

> "As I sift through my favorite memories with the sport, I am ultimately grateful for soccer because it offered me a life different from what I assume most children experienced."
>
> **JOE LAUGHLIN**

As I continued into high school, I was blessed to play with talented individuals in a prestigious program. I witnessed four NHC and Sectional Championships and watched a team finish as the runner-up in the State tournament my freshman year.

As I sift through my favorite memories with the sport, I am ultimately grateful for soccer because it offered me a life different from what most children experienced.

There were times when in the midst of a tortuous practice, I learned things about grit, determination and perseverance, which I could not have learned elsewhere.

There were trips across the country: Indianapolis, Ind.; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Ky.; and everywhere in between. I remember starched hotel rooms and dysfunctional GPS systems.

There were teammates that became brothers and coaches that became parents. I met two of my closest friends, Brian Hanford (12) and Ethan Brinkman ('13), on the soccer field. For almost my whole life, I have referred to Bill Hanford as "Dad Number Two."

Somewhere along the way, however, the passion within me dwindled. I pursued other opportunities that put soccer in second-place; in response, two of my coaches put me on the bench. This rejection was the first I had been forced to swallow in my soccer career—and for all who know me, I am terrible at swallowing a pill.

In response, I decided to give less of my effort to soccer. As I played in the last games of my career, however, I felt that fire within me again, and I regret ever letting it escape me.

The old cliché suggests to "leave all you've got on the field." I hope at the end of their careers, all athletes do.

As I tread across the wet grass at Carroll High School for the last time, I know it hurts beyond measure to carry anything off with you.

Winter Sports Preview

Boys' Swim

Despite the loss of a strong graduating senior class, the boys' swim and dive team is poised for another successful season. Last year, the team won the NHC title and then followed up the victory by winning the Sectional title.

"Although we lost about two-thirds of last year's State team, I'm confident our performance as a team will not falter through this year's strong senior leadership and talented underclassmen," Patrick Rittenhouse (11) said.

Rittenhouse is the top returning diver on a dive team that will feature several "talented underclassmen," including promising young divers Kevin Frebel (9) and Conner Whitaker (10),

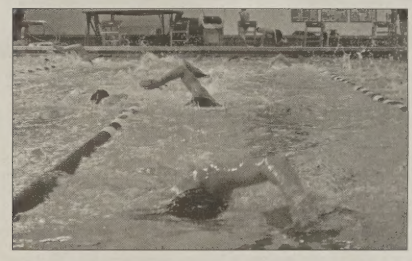
Nevertheless, the team does return a strong senior class, adding a great amount of experience to the team. The senior leaders include Robbie Veenstra (12), Cody Craig (12), Nick Rittenhouse (12) and Jonathan Marble (12).

"The team is capable of continuing the tradition of winning both Conference and Sectional titles," Veenstra said.

The team narrowly defeated Carroll by 12 points at the NHC before easily defeating them to win the Sectional title.

To advertise the beginning of the upcoming season, the announcements included the following explanation: "This is not a participation sport. Show up ready to suffer." This description of the team thoroughly depicts its earnest dedication: willing to suffer to achieve its goals.

-Tyler Koteskey



Swimmers swim laps during daily work out session at the Southwest Natatorium. Workouts have recently increased in intensity to prepare the team for upcoming dual meets this season.

Wrestling

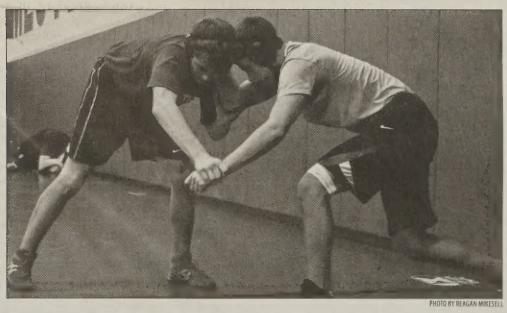


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Wrestling team hopefuls display their skills in front of coaches and contestants at a try-out.

This year's wrestling team has already begun preparation for the upcoming season. With incoming talent, the team is ready to take on the season with a hopeful spirit and a determined mind set.

The boys finished with a record of 9-8 last year, and placed first in the New Haven Super Dual. They have begun practice for this year, and their expectations are high.

Key players to watch for include: Chris Robinson (12), Frank Martin (12), Andy Papadakis (12) and Blake Reuille (11). These players anticipate a fairly challenging season.

"We are putting in countless hours of hard work during the pre-season and hopefully that will translate to our performance in the post-season," Robinson said.

The team looks to improve from last year, and it is putting the work in to do so. This year a new head coach has been hired, Justin Wight, along with a new assistant coach. With new coaches, the team is ready to work hard with new techniques and strategies.

"To do well this year, we need to work hard as a team, push each other and push ourselves, and in the end, leave it all on the mat." Chase Woosley (11) said.

-Sydney Isroff

Girls' Swim

Coming off a 6th place finish at the State meet, the girls' swim and dive team is preparing to succeed in its upcoming season.

Last year, the team continued its tradition of dominance by cruising to another NHC title as well as another Sectional title.

"I think we have a very strong team this year, with a solid senior class," Bailey Wills (12) said. Wills is the top returning diver, and she also was a semifinalist in the one-meter diving at the State meet.

"Ultimately, I believe we will be very successful throughout the whole season and end by placing well at State," Wills said.

The team returns five swimmers from last year's State meet. However, the team remained rather disappointed with a 6th place finish, because of its incredible 2nd place finish the year before.

"I think we were disappointed with how we did last year, so that will definitely help motivate us to do better this season," Reagan Cook (11) said.

The team already seems to have the State meet in its sights.

"Our team goal this year is to get as many people to State as possible, and that's only going to happen if we stay positive, work as a team and keep working hard," Cook said.

-Tyler Koteskey

"OUR TEAM GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO GET **AS MANY PEOPLE TO STATE AS POSSIBLE,** AND THAT'S ONLY GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE **STAY POSITIVE, WORK AS A TEAM** AND **KEEP WORKING HARD.**"

EMILY BLEY (12)

Gymnastics

While the gymnastics team has not had tryouts yet, gymnasts from last year are looking forward to another strong season. After having a record of 5-5 during the regular season, the team finished the season with a strong post-season. It placed 2nd at both Regionals and Sectionals, qualifying to go onto the State competition where it finished in 7th place.

"WE ARE GOING TO BE A LOT **TOUGHER ON EACH OTHER,** AND WE WILL JUST KEEP **PUSHING EACH OTHER** TO DO OUR BEST."

TAYLOR ROSS (10)

"As for improving, I would like to see a better regular season," head coach Ryan Gorndt said.

All of last year's post-season gymnasts are returning this year. Taylor Ross (10) and Morgan Hardwick (11) are two who stood out to Gorndt throughout the season.

"I think we will be even stronger this year, actually, because making it to State was a huge confidence booster," Ross said.

In order to ensure that the team makes it to State again this year, practices will take place every day, much like last year.

This year, however, the girls on the team are expecting practices to be more intense. In order to ensure a win at the State competition, the team needs to focus on improving its routines.

"We are going to be a lot tougher on each other, and we will just keep pushing each other to do our best," Ross said.

-Jessica Tebben

Girls' Basketball

Girls' basketball has begun training for the upcoming season to improve from last year. It finished last season with a record of 18-6, winning its first game in the post-season against Jay County before losing in the Sectional Semi-finals to South Side.

The girls expect to go far in the post-season and have already begun practicing to do so.

"We only have two upperclassmen on the team, so people might not expect us to do well, but we have a lot of young talent coming in," Emily Bley (12) said.

Bley is still recovering from an injury but hopes to return later in the season. Other key players to watch for are Sydney Buck (11), Grace German (10) and Josie Fisher (10).

"My expectations for this year are to win at least 20 games and win Conference and Sectional championships," Buck said.

With young incoming talent, the girls will train hard physically and mentally to finish this season successfully. The team will need to work more intensely to compete with the other teams and to accomplish its goals.

-Sydney Isroff

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

"WE ONLY HAVE TWO UPPERCLASSMEN ON THE TEAM, SO PEOPLE MIGHT NOT EXPECT US TO DO WELL, BUT WE HAVE **A LOT OF YOUNG TALENT** COMING IN."

EMILY BLEY (12)

Girls practice passing drills at basketball tryouts in hopes of making varsity or junior varsity teams.

Boys' Basketball

With the help of many returning players, the varsity boys' basketball team is working to improve on its impressive season last year. Last year, the team finished with a record of 23-3, winning the NHC and the Sectional championship. After defeating Northrop, the team lost to Carmel 48-39 in the Regional championship.

Despite losing a few contributing seniors from last year, the team returns with a multitude of seniors with experience in high-profile games.

"With so many seniors comes experience, and sometimes that will help you handle situations better, which might lead to a win," Seth Coate (12) said.

Coate is one of the returning seniors along Nick Gamble (12), Zach McFarland (12) and others.

"All the seniors will have a unity with one another and play much harder knowing it's their last season," McFarland said.

With this renewed unity, the team is certainly capable of improving upon last year's successful season.

"I think the team this year will be even better than last year's team," Gamble said. "We have more size and athleticism."

Gamble has already been a starter for two years and will likely lead the team this year due to his experience. However, improving from last year will be a daunting task as there are several teams that stand in the way of the Spartans.

"New Haven, Columbia City, Norwell [and] Carroll all return a lot of players so it'll be tough all around, but I think we can win [the NHC]," Gamble said.

-Tyler Koteskey

"I THINK THE TEAM THIS YEAR WILL BE EVEN **BETTER THAN LAST YEAR'S TEAM.** WE HAVE MORE **SIZE AND ATHLETICISM.**"

NICK GAMBLE (12)

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Dana Batt (10) follows through on a jump shot prior to the beginning of the first try-out.

{A Master of his Craft}

PHOTO COURTESY JOHN GEVERS

French teacher draws inspiration from childhood, global travels as pastry cook

By Alison Mansfield
Feature Editor

The name "Gregory Fryzel" is the stuff of Homestead legend. I've never uttered a word of French, but tales of "What Would Fryzel Do?" (WWFD) t-shirts and the "If I Had a Bunny" song have echoed through hallways since the beginning of my freshman year.

Students were crushed when Fryzel, a 21-year veteran of the Homestead language department, retired in 2010. However, his recent return to room 602 presented me with the perfect opportunity to acquaint myself with this remarkable teacher.

Entering Casa Ristorante Italiano last Saturday night, Kate Troutman (12), Kaleb Schlatter (12) and I saw Fryzel in his element, laughing with genial waiters in the restaurant he dubs his "home away from home." As we seated ourselves at a round, nearby table, we listened to Fryzel unravel the tale of his circuitous journey to Fort Wayne.

"My life has been a circus of wonderful experiences," Fryzel said, sipping a glass of water. "I have been a friar, a composer, a registrar, a harpsichord maker, an author and an educator."

Although his résumé runs the gamut from organizational to artistic, Fryzel's longest vocational passion has been culinary. Growing up in inner city Detroit, Fryzel passed his childhood days surrounded by family members who encouraged a love of food.

"My parents ran a small, neighborhood grocery store that was attached to our house," Fryzel said. "I was always surrounded by good food, fresh products, excellent meats and cheeses, breads and pastries from the local bakery and beautiful produce. I was encouraged from a very early age to enjoy food–and consequently to enjoy cooking."

Even at the age of 8, Fryzel's family cultivated a love of food in the home, allowing him to cook nightly dinners and even decorate a lampshade with a makeshift lard-and-powdered sugar frosting.

> "I cook because cooking is a creative way for me to express my love of food and my love for those people for whom I cook."
>
> **GREGORY FRYZEL**
> *Pastry Cook*

After graduating from high school and Michigan State University, Fryzel spent 23 years in the Franciscan religious order where he served partly as a baker.

"One day, (while) I was a Franciscan brother stationed at the Brothers' School in Mount Airy, Cincinnati, I suggested to the Guardian, (the head of the friary), that we have Crêpes Suzette for dessert that evening," Fryzel said. "He said that only 'rich' people eat things like Crêpes Suzette (and) would have none of it. True to form, I disobeyed him and made the crêpes anyway."

When it came time for Fryzel to flambé the crêpes for dessert, a paper tablecloth caught on fire, resulting in dining room pandemonium.

"The Guardian looked at me from across the refectory (dining room) with an accusatory eye," Fryzel said. "That's what disobedience got me. The crêpes were delicious–all the friars licked their plates."

Fryzel continued to nurture his love of food with several trips to Europe, citing France and Italy as centers of culinary inspiration.

"My trips have had a profound influence not only on my appreciation and attitude about food,= but also my desire to create some of those dishes in my own kitchen," Fryzel said. "I have been most inspired by hearty, 'country-style' dishes as opposed to the very fussy, fancy and rarified dishes of haute cuisine."

This no-nonsense, wholesome approach to cooking has counted chefs such as Éric Ripert, Lidia Bastianich and Julia Child among Fryzel's favorites. Attending a mayonnaise demonstration in Centerville, Ohio, Fryzel actually had the opportunity to meet Child.

"(Child) was delightful with her chirpy sing-song voice," Fryzel said. "It is a moment I will never forget."

This past September, Fryzel also attended the French Pastry School in Chicago, where he furthered his craft under the instruction of Chef Dimitri Fayard.

"It (had) always been a dream of mine to sit at the feet of a master and learn the secrets of a particular trade," Fryzel said. "This dream came true when I actually made croissants, millefeuilles, macarons, financiers, madeleines, puff pastry and cream puff dough from a world-renowned chef pâtissier. I had never seen so much flour, chocolate, butter and sugar in my life."

Fryzel certainly boasts a rich history with food; however, by continuing to hone his craft abroad and at home, Fryzel will inspire others with his infectious love of food.

"I cook because cooking is a creative way for me to express my love of food and my love for those people for whom I cook," Fryzel said. "Cooking with love satisfies my body as well as my soul."

PHOTO COURTESY GREGORY FRYZEL

At the French Pastry School, Fryzel learned how to prepare millefeuilles.

HIS RECIPE

Fryzel offered to reveal the recipe of one of his dishes. Here is how to make his coffee-coconut creme brulee:

INGREDIENTS

2 cups of whipping cream
4 egg yolks
¼ cup of sugar
½ teaspoon of vanilla
2 teaspoons of instant coffee
¾ teaspoon of coconut extract

PROCEDURE

1. Dissolve coffee in one tablespoon of hot water
2. Scald the whipping cream
3. Add the instant coffee mixture
4. Whisk the sugar and egg yolks together until the mixture is smooth
5. Slowly add the scalded cream.
6. Add the vanilla and coconut extract. Strain.
7. Pour the mixture into ramekins
8. Bake at 300° F for 30 minutes in a hot water bath, covered with foil.
9. Finish off with sugar and a blowtorch

FRENCH FRYZEL

Age: 65
Hometown: Detroit, Mich.
Years Spent Teaching at Homestead: 21

Spartana: How did your parents influence your love of cooking?
Fryzel: My parents, but especially my grandmother, always filled me with confidence about food. I would spend time with my grandmother in our tiny kitchen and watch with wonder as she would make bread without even using a measuring cup or a tablespoon measure.
Spartana: Who would you consider your culinary role models?
Fryzel: There are several chefs and cooks that I will always admire. My favorites, however, are Julia Child (for bringing French cooking into the American home), Éric Ripert, the chef at the four-star restaurant Le Bernardin in Manhattan (for his calm, gentle, methodical approach—no need to chop onions at 100 mph!), Lidia Bastianich (for her no-nonsense approach to Italian cooking) and Rachel Allen (for her enchanting Irish accent). Of course, there are others.
Spartana: What are your opinions on the American attitude towards food?
Fryzel: I grew up at a time when food was considered something to be relished and enjoyed. There was not, as I recall, so much focus on whether or not food was "healthy." Don't get me wrong: there are people who have serious health issues and must monitor their food intake; it would be irresponsible to do otherwise. And I do believe that our focus on eating foods that are beneficial to our health is a good thing.

Unfortunately, I feel as though there are often subtle attachments of guilt to food. Expressions like "decadent desserts," "death by chocolate," "suicide by chocolate" and "guilt-free" foods only reinforce this idea. I have heard people say things like, "I think I'll have a piece of cake. I'm being bad today." If I'm planning on 'being bad,' it probably won't involve cake. Nigella Lawson, the food columnist and cook, claims that many people have a "tortured relationship" with food. I think she's right. Enough said.

Spartana: How have your trips to Europe influenced your culinary style?
Fryzel: My trips have had a profound influence not only on my appreciation and attitude about food but also my desire to create some of those dishes in my own kitchen. I have been most inspired by the cuisines of France and Italy, especially the more hearty "country-style" dishes as opposed to the very fussy, fancy and rarified dishes of haute cuisine. My many trips to Europe have awakened my palate to try new foods.

PHOTO COURTESY GREGORY FRYZEL

Fryzel prepares an anniversary cake in 1970.

THE SPARTANA

▶NEWS Math teacher Steve Winebrenner undergoes an open heart surgery, which forces him out of the classroom for the semester. 1

▶OPINION Marijuana legalization in Indiana ought to be an issue left for the state to decide, not for the national government to prohibit. 3

▶LIFE The winter guard kicks off another season; however, this time, no senior members elected to return for one final year. 4

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Psychology teacher ends military tour

By Priscilla Lin
Writer

Last Thursday, the students enrolled in Tim Decker's Psychology and AP Psychology classes were once again forced to endure change as Decker, home from deployment, returned to his classroom and Casey Prater completed her service as his long-term substitute.

Decker has served in the Army Reserve for the last sixteen years and now holds the rank of commander. He has also spent time in South Korea, Sicily and Kuwait prior to his most recent venture. After receiving notice of Decker's deployment half way through the 2011-2012 school year, Prater was hired to take over the class for the resulting length of Decker's absence.

Decker

Prater, a Homestead graduate of the class of 2000, was given the unique opportunity to teach at the school from which she graduated as a corollary of Decker's absence. Walking through the halls as a teacher rather than a student, Prater said that her time substituting for Mr. Decker has transformed her previous perceptions of the school.

"It was fun to come back as a returning graduate," Prater said. "I become friends with the other teachers and meet new students; I saw homestead from a different view than I had before."

> "I have been teaching at HHS for 23 years, so when I walked into the classroom on Thursday, Dec. 6, I wasn't worried at all."
>
> **TIM DECKER**
> *Psychology Teacher*

After spending the majority of the first semester with Prater, students currently enrolled in Mr. Decker's Psychology and AP Psychology classes said they were at first apprehensive towards the change. However, AP Psychology student Ian McKenzie (11) said that he was eased by the fact that the change was occurring right before the semester ended, rather than in the middle of the semester.

"(The switch) is coming at

▶SEE 'DECKER,' PAGE 2

WELLS DONE.

Jiwon Park (12) earns prestigious Wells Scholarship

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

At 17 years old, Jiwon Park's (12) resume stretches longer than the grand piano she so effortlessly plays. With the accolades piling up, Park barely has time between activities to stop and enjoy the ride. Her hard work paid off when Park was awarded the prestigious Indiana University Wells Scholarship.

The Wells Scholarship "provides full tuition, mandatory and course-related fees and a living stipend for four years of undergraduate study at IU Bloomington," according to the university website. Winners also have the option of spending up to a year abroad cost-free.

Applicants were asked to submit three essays, including one about a problem that is plaguing society. Park said she wrote about how public schools stifle creativity.

Homestead was allowed to submit two seniors to IU for consideration. The scholarship committee selected Park as one of the two entries among dozens of applicants.

"There are lots of very strong students and lots of very smart students. She was able to go into

> "My life has centered around going to college since I was in first grade. I thought i was normal. I thought all kids were like that.
>
> **JIWON PARK**

POCKET CHANGE

▶32,543	▶10,033	▶600	▶FREE
Undergraduates currently attend Indiana University	Dollars an Indiana resident pays in tuition	Students were nominated for the Wells Scholarship	Park would pay nothing in tuition, course-related fees

SOURCE: COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

Surgery sidelines teacher for 8 weeks

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

The Math Department chose Barry Chrazan, who holds a degree in mechanical engineering from IPFW, to replace Winebrenner during his absense. Chrzan is a former engineer at Dana Corp, and his professional expertise will aid him in the classroom.

By Megan Cater
Writer

Steve Winebrenner went into open heart surgery on Tue, Nov. 27 at 7:00 a.m. Winebrenner teaches pre-calculus with trigonometry and honors pre-calculus with discrete. Because of the recovery time required for this procedure, he will not return for the remainder of the semester.

The concepts taught in these courses are not something that the average substitute can instruct. The difficulty of the material has posed a problem for the proper placement of a temporary teacher.

"The higher you go in math, the more ways you can do things," T.J. McCombs, AP Calculus teacher and math department chair, said. "The students were having trouble because they would learn one way to do something from a resource room teacher, a different way from a friend and then a different way from me in class. But once they find the way that works best for them, they adjust."

Winebrenner instructed for 15 of this semester's 18 weeks. The classes he is unable to teach concern the last chapter of the semester. Winebrenner intended his students to take this chapter's

▶SEE 'WINEBRENNER,' PAGE 2

ONE OF A KIND

Student earns perfect score on AP Macroeconomics Exam

As one of 17 students in the world, Max Dvorak (12) received a letter from the College Board notifying him that he did not miss a single question on the entire AP Macroeconomics exam. He credits his success to his teacher, Susan Summers.

"Mrs. Summers' experience and knowledge of economics was outstanding. I couldn't have done it without her help," Dvorak said.

Dvorak is an AP Scholar with Distinction, and out of the six exams he has taken, he never received below a five. Upon graduating high school, Dvorak will have taken 10 AP courses.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Students fret final exams as end of semester nears

By Sarah Camino
Writer

Hoping to outwit, outplay and outlast the energy vacuum of comprehensive exams, students regard finals as one antagonistic entity that should be approached with a survivor attitude.

The build-up to finals involves bleary-eyed students subsisting solely on large quantities of caffeine and snack foods, a few fervent prayers to the gods of Scantron and vigorous review of material that was presented three months ago. This panicked atmosphere, however, is not a result of the teachers' indifference.

Homework, tests and quizzes are banned in favor of class review during the week of finals, and Tammy Behrens, Biomed teacher, began dropping references to the impending exams three weeks in advance. Those who "fail to start studying ahead of time" make an essential mistake in their preparation, according to Behrens.

Some students, however, prefer to procrastinate, though their motivations are not always as clear as their study habits are. Whether one procrastinates because he or she is in denial, has supposedly better things to do or finds the terror of last-minute panic inspiring, everyone knows that one person whose very existence is antithetical to forethought.

▶SEE 'FINALS,' PAGE 2

Semi-formal receives acclaim

Student Government earns approximately $6K on tickets

By Awbrei Vachon
Writer

For the young men and women attending the school's annual semi-formal dance, it's all about the music and the socializing; but for the Student Government and select others, it's about construction and planning the whole experience.

The setup of the dance required efficient planning and precautions regarding the big night, as well as a collection of loosely thrown-out ideas contributed by the sophomores in charge of the event. Sophomore class representatives first met at the end of October to discuss possible themes.

Though "A Classy Night" was eventually chosen as the theme, it was not the only idea that was proposed. One of the first themes considered was a French theme, "Classique Magnifique," but because some members did not think the theme would make sense to a wide variety of individuals, the group quickly discarded the theme.

The idea was not entirely useless; according to Robert McCoy (10), it served as a helpful start and only aided the group in coming closer to determining the final theme.

"We combined a few different ideas to eventually come up with

Seniors Matt Skowronek, Ben Haberly, Chris Robinson, Grayson Bastin and Cameron prepare for a classy night at the with their dates Jenny Redden (11), Olivia Wood (11), Emma Franklin (12), Leah Stinson (11) and Bradey Wright (12), respectively.

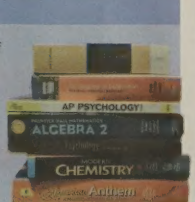
PHOTO BY BRADEY WRIGHT

▶SEE 'DANCE,' PAGE 2

HITTING THE BOOKS

Students recommend different amounts of studying during finals week:

Student	Hours
Arianna Lecea (10)	3+
Karly Bailey (11)	6
Caroline Weigand (11)	8
Seth Coate (12)	2



BRIEFS

BASKETBALL GAME
The boys' basketball team faces off against the Carroll Chargers tonight at Homestead. The theme of the student section is a blackout, so students planning on attending should wear all black attire and sunglasses to cheer the Spartans on to victory.

FINALS WEEK
Last year's policy about attendance during finals week continues this year: students will not be allowed to leave early from school or have any parent excused absences. Students must be in class for every class period they attend at Homestead.

GRADUATION ORDERS
To order a cap and gown for graduation, all seniors must access the website of Jostens. Representatives will no longer visit during the lunch modules to take belated order forms of students. Students should plan to order their materials as soon as possible.

▶DANCE CONTINUED FROM 1

(the result)," McCoy said. Aside from "Classique Magnifique," other contenders included "A Night on the Town" and "From Dusk to Dawn."

"'From Dusk to Dawn' was (going to be) somewhat of a midnight theme," McCoy said. "Some of the girls wanted it to be based on Twilight since (we were planning) around the time that the movie was coming out."

"The general idea was to keep it nice and clean," McCoy said. "Since it's semi and we had to keep it 'classy,' we chose 'A Classy Night.'"

Even after it began to consider other themes, the group could not dispel the idea of "keeping it classy." From its inception, the theme's grandeur seemed inevitable.

The Student Government met the Friday prior to the dance at 4:30 p.m. to start setting things up. A Party Apart, a local party dealer, helped with most of the decorations, leaving little to be done the night of the dance.

"(The theme) was simple, but I think most people enjoyed it," Emmett Elizondo (11), the DJ known as E-Squared who selected and mixed the music for the dance, said. "(We had) good attendance, (selling) over 700 tickets."

From those 700 tickets sold, the Student Government made approximately $6,000, which will likely be used for prom in the spring.

As for the actual music played at the dance, there was not much pre-planning on Elizondo's behalf other than understanding what type of music was allowed and what was deemed inappropriate.

"I have to obey (the school's) rules," Elizondo said. "Whatever (music) I feel is best at the time, I play."

Attendants were also allowed to request songs.He knew he had to keep it classy and obey the instructions given by the event coordinators in the Student Government.

It's not all fun and games, though; Officer Ingrid Herriott said that security also played a major role in the dance.

"At any school event," Herriott said, "we are looking for people that may be involved in drinking or drug activity along with preventing any kind of disturbances that might arise."

Herriott was satisfied, however, that she did not have to ask any students to leave and said that the event went extremely well.

Just to make sure that nobody was in fact coming to the dance intoxicated, Herriott and other officers breathalyzed randomly approximately 100 students, all of which tested sober.

Though school dances may often appear to run like clockwork, the extensive planning and organization demand much more behind-the-scenes work to make it a truly classy night.

"If you consider walking around the cafeteria barefoot and dancing to Gangnam Style, then, yes, it was a classy night," Molly Ray (12) said.

FILE PHOTO

The Semi-Formal dance was hosted In the cafeteria, where chandeliers and delicate linens draped the ceiling. More than 700 tickets were sold prior to the dance.

▶PARK CONTINUED FROM 1

two directions and be successful," Brian Dobias, guidance counselor and scholarship committee member, said.

From those 600 nominees from Indiana and around the world, the field was narrowed to 50 by representatives at Indiana University. Those seniors were invited to Bloomington for group and individual interviews.

"For the group interview, they asked about the fiscal cliff and how the politicians currently serving society are affecting the negotiations," Park said. "For the individual interview, they asked me what problem is facing society today. I talked about racial discrimination, particularly the treatment of the Burmese population in Fort Wayne."

While Park is honored to have won, she is still undecided regarding her college path. She also applied to Yale, Purdue, Northwestern and Stanford.

"I want to weigh all of my options and hear back from all the colleges I applied to," Park said.

With such an enticing scholarship as well as the appeal of the nationally-recognized Jacobs School of Music, IU ranks high on Park's list.

"I want to go to IU so I can sextuple major in piano performance, informatics, biology, Chinese, French and Spanish," Park said. "I met a Wells Scholar who majored in six things and still graduated in four years, so that gives me hope."

Park is not the typical high school student. She practices piano for three to four hours a day, attends classes at IPFW and wakes up at 3 a.m. to finish her homework.

"My life has centered around going to college since I was in first grade," Park said. "I thought I was normal. I thought all of the kids were like that."

The work has paid off. After placing second in an international piano competition, Park was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall.

"When I played at Carnegie Hall, I don't think I played my best because I was so nervous," Park said. "But I was very honored."

Park's achievements cross education lines into math and science. She wrote a paper on analyzing biological hypotheses and submitted it prominent science journals and conferences. Last summer she traveled to Las Vegas for an international conference on bioinformatics and biocomputing to present her paper.

"It was a very prestigious experience for her to have. It's always great when students can come to class and explain how the things we're learning in class are applicable to the real world," AP Biology teacher Bekki Vail said.

Despite so many accomplishments already under her belt, Park's teachers never cease to be amazed by what she achieves.

"When Jiwon's gone, I don't know if she's playing at Carnegie Hall or at an interview for Yale. I just never know what she's up to," Vail said.

PIANO PRODIGY

As she began playing at four years old, Park displayed a unique talent for piano. Her practice has paid off, for this past summer, Park won second place at the World Piano Competition. Moreover, this fall, she traveled to Carnegie Hall to perform. She practices approximately 14 to 20 hours per week.

PHOTO BY GABBY HOLLMAN

▶WINEBRENNER CONTINUED FROM 1

test after he underwent surgery, but now his students are apprehensive about how they would review and be able to do well on the test.

"Ms. McCombs just started from where Mr. Winebrenner left off," Mercedes Yanez (11) said. "It was hard because we were to have a test on the Thursday after Thanksgiving, and he left Monday afternoon. So Ms. McCombs just asked us what our questions and concerns were with the test and how the rest of the semester would be without Mr. Winebrenner."

The first week of his absence, McCombs and Chad Zolman taught their classes along with Winebrenner's classes to see where the students were in the material.

"Our class was pretty shocked, and we were all worried about who our sub was going to be. It was hard going from having Mr. Winebrenner to having our current sub and Ms. McCombs teach us what we have to learn for the rest of the semester, but we are getting used to it," Yanez said.

The following week, the math department found a substitute with the appropriate credentials and experience to teach these difficult courses. Barry Chrzan, who has a Mechanical Engineering Degree from IPFW and is a former engineer at Dana, has the qualifications to teach these classes. Chrzan is on the schedule as the permanent substitute for the remainder of Winebrenner's absence.

As students aim to adapt to the absense of Winebrenner, skepticism remains as to the whether they will be able to learn the material in the best manner.

"Initially, I hoped the surgery would be successful and he would return, but I then realized that the recovery time would be significant. I worried, and still worry, about the integrity of my math grade due to his absence," Joey Sherman (12) said.

The students have a vast amount of resources available to them to get the extra help they need. The math resource room, open every day during the course of the school day, provides one-on-one attention for students. The resource room is also open after school on Tuesday and Wednesday. Any additional help can be provided during a one-on-one study session with any math teacher.

"Students have been chipping in to help other students," McCombs said. "The math department has come together as well. I think it's great because the students can see how many resources they actually have available to them. They have been really flexible and positive supporting the two of us jumping in and the substitute as well."

The urgent nature of the surgery shocked students and staff. Winebrenner will be out for at least eight weeks. Students and faculty hope that within the first three weeks of the second semester, he will be healthy enough to return.

"It was so sudden, and no one really knew how to react," Jacob Yankosky (11) said. "We all hope he gets better quickly so he can come back and continue teaching as soon as possible."

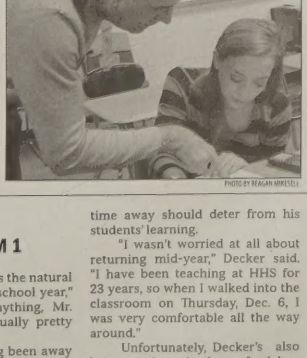


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Chrzan assists Emma Franklin (12) on a precalculus assignment during class. Franklin is one of Winbrenner's students who worries about his health, but continues to adjust under the new teaching style. Math teachers T.J. McCombs and Chad Zolman have also stepped in to help teach the precalculus classes when they can.

▶DECKER CONTINUED FROM 1

semester break which is the natural changing point of the school year," McKenzie said. "If anything, Mr. Decker's timing is actually pretty good."

Decker, after having been away for nearly a year says he was eager to return. After teaching at Homestead for 23 years, Decker has been looking forward to getting back into the classroom, and most of all, back into his normal routine outside of active duty.

Despite returning to his classes mid-year. Decker doesn't think his time away should deter from his students' learning.

"I wasn't worried at all about returning mid-year," Decker said. "I have been teaching at HHS for 23 years, so when I walked into the classroom on Thursday, Dec. 6, I was very comfortable all the way around."

Unfortunately, Decker's also brings with it the loss of ad hoc teacher Mrs. Prater.

Among many things, students say they will miss most her engaging demonstrations and patient personality.

"She was a really nice and laid back teacher," McKenzie said. "She was easy to listen to and her class examples were entertaining."

Now that Prater is relieved of her position, she plans on staying home in order to take care of her daughter as well as subbing from time to time when needed.

Now that Decker is home, he hopes to move forward with his daily life both in and out of the classroom.

"More than anything, (I'm looking forward to) being with my family and having the freedom to do what I want to do," Decker said. "I am looking forward to some good classroom discussions with students on a variety of Psychology topics. That is always my favorite part of class."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The business department left spoiled food out too long in its lounge, which infiltrated the nearby hallways with a painful fish smell.

Status: False - For the last three years, business students have completed a mousepad project, and the glue used to make these mousepads evidently created the fish smell.

"There has never been an issue in the past utilizing the equipment for this activity," Jeanine Miller, vocational business teacher, said.

To create the mousepads, they used a transfer press, an automatic stamping machine that impresses the designs that the students created onto a surface.

The designs are put onto the mousepads, t-shirts and hats.

This semester the project was completed during second and third periods. The smell, however, is not new.

"I had our maintenance staff look into it the last time it occurred," assistant principal Jeff Kintz said.

The machine has always been known to give off some form of odor, but none has escaped the classroom before this year. Other teachers and students in the same area of the building as the machine said the smell dissipated by fifth period.

"When I walked down the hallway in the morning, I nearly choked on the stench," Brian Hanford (12) said. "But as I passed through the hallway at the end of the day, it disappeared."

The smell should not return, but if the press is used in the future Miller said she would work with either the art or engineering departments to utilize space with exhaust fans.

The business classes will continue to do the project but will take more precautions to avert loathsome smells that interrupt the school day.

▶FINALS CONTINUED FROM 1

Alex Angel (9) suspects that his preparation for finals will mirror his study habits for other tests.

"I usually study the night before and then cram all day," Angel said.

Behrens, who disapproves of this last-minute strategy, leads a crusade against cramming.

"I also encourage my students to get organized with their materials from the beginning of the semester," Behrens said.

At this suggestion, however, students who wage a lifelong battle with organization stare in horror at their backpacks and binders, which have imploded since the beginning of the semester. All that is left is a chaotic amalgamation of old papers and gum wrappers.

> "When the bell rings and you leave school to get in your car, the weight is definitely off your shoulders."
>
> **EMILY MUHA (12)**
> *Veteran Test-Taker*

"(Having two number 2 pencils ready is) really all I have organized for finals," Angel said.

There are those, on the other hand, who in a miraculous exhibition of foresight, choose to heed their teachers' warnings and begin to not only review, but organize their materials in advance.

"I like to study the weekend before so that I can figure out where my problem spots are and address them in class," Emily Muha (12) said.

Mental alertness during testing is also vital to Muha, whose preparation includes the omission of caffeine during the week of exams.

"I don't want to crash or go through caffeine withdrawal during a test," Muha said. "I'm always very concerned with the outcome of these exams."

And even as a senior, Muha refuses to become complacent.

"I don't want senioritis to hit during finals, so I try to be very cognizant that these grades do still count," she said.

During the week of exams, superstitions and eccentricities also develop. Students may only brush their teeth with a Batman toothbrush, chew only watermelon gum, refuse to wear anything but converse or favor a particular pencil.

"I guess a weird superstition that I have is that I use the same pencil for all seven finals," Muha said.

In the days following finals, students become more adept at typing their Powerschool login information than most people are at writing their own name.

Every student, whether they study with zen-like efficiency and are able to approach the test with enviable bravado or review during commercial breaks, are relieved by the two stress-free weeks of winter break ahead.

Muha describes the let-down after finals as being nerve-racking but ultimately full of relief.

"When the bell rings and you leave school to get in your car, the weight is definitely off your shoulders," Muha said.

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

Public schools must not teach creationism

BY COLTON SHAFFER
Writer

Long has it been in this country that the teaching of practically universally accepted scientific topics in public schools has met with much resistance.

There is so much that science teachers feel the need to issue a disclaimer before entering a unit on evolution or global warming that they are not pushing a specific set of beliefs on their students, merely presenting topics on which nearly every science pundit agrees.

Now, there is a new and refreshing twist on the story, as televangelist Pat Robertson recently discredited the idea of creationism on his own show, "The 700 Club."

In response to a question submitted to him by a viewer who was concerned that her husband and children would not go to heaven "because they questioned why the Bible could not explain the existence of dinosaurs," Robertson said, "there was a time when... giant reptiles were on the Earth, and it was before the time of the Bible." He himself believes that "if you fight science, you are going to end up losing your children, and I believe in telling them the way it was."

> "Those who protest against the teaching of both planetary and biological evolution must remember that it is neither the responsibility nor the right of the public schools to support a specific belief system""
>
> **COLTON SHAFFER**

Scientists have come to the conclusion that the earth is 4.5 billion years old and the universe it inhabits is some 14.5 billion years old, while Christians who interpret literally the story of Genesis, from which the idea of creationism is derived, believe the earth is only 6,000 to 10,000 years old.

The discrepancy between the theories is too big to be justified as a rounding error, and the ultimate determination of which side is correct is nearly impossible with today's technology.

This determination of accuracy is, however, not really relevant in the context of public school systems.

Those who protest against the teaching of both planetary and biological evolution must remember that it is neither the responsibility nor the right of public schools to support a specific belief system by teaching its version of life's origins.

According to a recent Gallup poll, 46% of Americans believe that God created humans in their present form some time in the last 10,000 years, a figure that has remained relatively constant for the last 30 years.

Perhaps, with Robertson's questioning, the people that make up that number will, if not decline, at least come to understand that public schools are not endorsing any one specific religion or lack thereof and that they therefore should not take scientific instruction on such topics as evolution as a personal attack.

In all likelihood, the backlash created by Robertson's response could swing public opinion the opposite direction, but the message should be all too clear: despite all attempts, the marriage of science and religion is one that can never find a happy medium.

Regardless, it should not be the job of public schools to mediate their irreconcilable differences.

Skyrocketing tuition hurts middle class

A good portion of a student's last year of high school is spent making preparations for another four years in the holy grail of all academia: college.

Countless applications, essays, interviews and letters of recommendation add up to hours upon hours of tedious groundwork, and the last thing a student needs to hear is that the transition from high school to college just got harder.

Yet it has. With the skyrocketing costs of colleges across the country, many have seen fit to admit students on a need-blind basis and dole out scholarships and aid as needed.

Now, however, some schools have reached the breaking point, giving out more in financial aid than they are taking in. To remedy this deficit, colleges such as MIT, Grinnell College and Cornell University have converted student grants into loans.

While this seemingly small change sounds like a mere alteration of technicalities, in reality, it has massive consequences. Colleges are now taking away thousands of dollars of grant money and replacing them with loans that students are legally obligated to repay.

This decision could force several students who initially had the potential to attend extraordinarily prestigious universities to look elsewhere simply because they do not have adequate funds. What this conversion suggests is that colleges cannot adequately allocate their funds and are content to maintain unsustainable monetary practices at the expense of students.

Perhaps the worst part of this change is that it will not hurt the poorest students, who would get substantial federal aid, the most, nor will it hurt the richest students, who could comfortably rely on their parents' incomes, the most; it instead hurts those middle class students whose parents make enough to disqualify them for significant financial aid, yet do not make enough for college to not be a financial burden.

The best and brightest should not be punished for wanting to go to a prominent institution of higher education, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

THE ED BOARD

Joe Laughlin *Tori Barnard*
Laura Zweig *Clair Pranger*
Dani Castonzo *Ryan Boylan*

This situation highlights the ridiculousness that plagues the American education system.

Students cannot be expected to go to college in order to succeed in life if the costs of doing so outweigh the benefits.

Rather than continue to allow colleges to operate in a completely unsustainable manner, school administrators should be forced to clean up their acts.

Ivy League schools must be forced to realize that although admittance to their schools is in high demand, that does not give them the right to charge students as they please.

{The Bottom Line} *Converting student grants into loans gives students outside of the highest socioeconomic class an undeserved financial burden.*

the antifederalist highdea

CARTOON BY BLAGAN COOK

Legalizing marijuana concerns states' rights, not personal health

BY DEVIN WRIGHT
Writer

The debate on the issue of marijuana's legalization is one that has picked up serious momentum in recent years, and it has since made quite a bit of progress. Washington, D.C. and 18 other states have legalized it for medical purposes, and two of which, Colorado and Washington, have even legalized it for recreational use. Indiana could be next in line. With new legislature in office, the decriminalization and even legalization of marijuana in Indiana has become a major issue.

The use of marijuana is just as much an American's right as being able to buy a bottle of beer or a block of cheese. It is not the national government's job to regulate substances unless those substances are a direct harm to others. Any attempt at regulation should be considered unconstitutional and is reminiscent of the prohibition crusade in the early 20th century.

▶14,483

arrests for marijuana possession in Indiana in 2007, which accounted for 57 percent of all drug arrests during that year

SOURCE: DRUGSCIENCE.ORG

Only with the declaration of alcohol's illegality did the federal government realize its mistake, and it may come to realize the restriction of marijuana on the federal level is one as well.

The real issue of marijuana is on the state level. The states aren't as bound by the Constitution as the national government is and for good reason. If this substance needs to be regulated, the national government should let the states have free reign to do as they see fit. Although marijuana sometimes seems as prevalent in society as alcohol or cigarettes, it, in fact, isn't. A poll done by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) revealed 20.6% of seniors in high school smoked pot the month prior to the poll while another study by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) shows that 53% of teenagers who took the survey had used alcohol in the past month. Clearly, the legal status of marijuana has an effect on its consumption, and laws do prevent the younger generation from smoking pot, but does it matter?

The classic argument is always marijuana versus alcohol, but it is one that holds little merit. There is no possible way to overdose on marijuana, short of killing oneself from the oxygen deprivation that results from the inhalation of too much smoke. Marijuana is less addictive than alcohol, at least chemically, as it has been shown to be as addictive as any other substance that releases dopamine, which is, to say, practically everything. Since it is used solely for the purpose of releasing massive amounts of dopamine into the user's brain, however, it tends to be more addictive than a block of cheese.

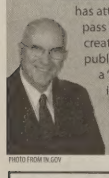
But beyond the issues of marijuana's effects on the individual, its legalization could do much to quell the activity of many drug cartels in the southern United States that transport marijuana over the border.

If the drug were legalized, then these typically violent gangs wouldn't have any business to conduct. Rather than evade authority, they would be forced to work within the confines of the law, thus cutting down on the number of drug-related crimes.

Overall, however, many of these facts are irrelevant. Since all of marijuana's side effects only cause harm to the individual, it is not the government's place to restrict it.

It is not the responsibility of the public to watch out for individual, but for the individual to watch out for himself. By that logic and as long as the same usage restrictions that apply to alcohol also apply in this case, then marijuana could be and should be legalized.

TESTING THE TRUTH



State Senator David Kruse (R), who has attempted and failed to pass legislation requiring creationism to be taught in public schools, plans to offer a "truth in education" legislation that encourages students to challenge their teachers to make them prove facts.

PHOTO FROM IN.GOV

twitter take

Every Sunday night Joe Laughlin will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Twitter.

Question: "What do you think will actually happen Dec. 21?

@Twyss_24 - Travis Wyss (11) ▶"nothing. "

@karahkiefer - Karah Kiefer (12) ▶ "nothing will happen until the 22nd."

@CalliSwagg - Zach McFarland (12) ▶ "finals."

@olly_wood - Olivia Wood (11) ▶ "it will be my birthday.

@mini_hanford - Brian Hanford (12) ▶ "I will sit in my den and cuddle with my dog."

@EZ_duzzitt - Elijah Zavala (12) ▶ "@mini_hanford will sit in his den and cuddle with his dog. It's no different than any other day."

Looming 'fiscal cliff' demands bipartisanship

Norquist's offensive comments reflect selfish motives that would hurt economy

BY COLTON SHAFFER
Writer

For most Americans, the term "fiscal cliff" is like the appendix: everyone seems to know what it is, but few know what it's made of or what its purpose is. The fiscal cliff is a term used to describe the effects of drastic tax increases and spending cuts that will immediately take effect on Jan. 1, if Congress cannot come to an agreement on the federal government's budget. If allowed to pass, the automatic tax increases alone could work out to the average American family paying thousands of dollars more per year in taxes, which many economists agree could plunge the country back into recession.

Naturally, the fiscal cliff and the looming potential of recession is causing a big stir in Washington, as politicians debate on the most effective way to combat the crisis. Many Republicans argue that entitlement reform is the only way to avert another crisis, while Democrats advocate tax increases on the wealthiest 2% of Americans. While senators and congressmen play chicken with the problem, many American families will feel a real strain should the federal government careen over the cliff. For this reason, the only real solution to the problem is through a massive bipartisan compromise consisting of reforms to entitlement programs and tax increases together.

However, despite the increasingly important need for stubborn politicians to set aside their partisan demands, people like Grover Norquist, a seemingly unimportant Libertarian citizen, continue to throw tantrums and threaten to pick up their toys and go home if their demands are not met. In order to ensure his grip on the GOP in Congress, Norquist authored a document he calls a "pledge to the American people" that the majority of Republican congressmen have signed, promising not to raise taxes, under any circumstances. Seeming to delight in causing gridlock in Washington at the expense of the average taxpayer, Norquist, who fancies himself to have as much authority as the president, is actually about as intimidating as the little blue Muppet.

In light of the federal government's recent financial crisis, a few brave Republicans have made it plain that they are willing to go against the piece of paper they signed in order to truly do what is best for Americans. As a result, Norquist has publicly reassured conservatives everywhere that, congressmen breaking his tax pledge is like imagining a "pink unicorn... [and] since pink unicorns do not exist in the real world, it's never occurred to [him] to worry about [them]."

This sort of pig-headedness against bipartisanship will do absolutely nothing to help correct this looming financial problem that, despite Norquist's protestations, is not the result of any one man, any one party, nor any one ideology.

Rather than intentionally slowing down the process of compromise, people such as Norquist should focus their energies on helping politicians reach a decision that is beneficial for everyone.

The move towards a bipartisan solution is the pinnacle of true democracy--a government by the people, for the people--including the idea that millionaires and billionaires do not pay a smaller percentage in taxes than their secretaries.

GOING OVER THE EDGE

If Congress does nothing about the fiscal cliff, all federal discretionary spending programs will be cut by 8.2 percent. This cut would mean reductions in Title I, which assists low-income students, Title II, which provides money to improve teacher quality, and IDEA, which sends money to special education students. According to an American Association of School Administrators survey, school administrators prepare for these cuts by increasing class sizes, reducing academic enrichment programs, deferring technology programs, laying off staff and other devastating reductions.

holiday activity guide, 5.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Key Club makes warm gestures in chilly months

Members volunteer for various holiday charity organizations, spread 'the spirit of giving'

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

There's no present like the time, and members of the Key Club are volunteering theirs this holiday season.

This year's Key Club has roughly 200 members, all working to better their community. Though membership is down relative to previous years, the club is optimistic, partly due to its new adviser, Nicole Detter.

"When Mrs. Padgett decided that she wanted to pursue her master's degree, the position became available," Detter said. "I've always been interested in helping students pursue volunteer activities in our community."

The club's leadership positions have used their collective experience to kick the year off to a solid start. The members are involved in frequent volunteer events that arise throughout the year.

"This year is going very well. We've been fortunate to have a lot of volunteer events so far, so there are plenty of opportunities to go around," Key Club president Emily Muha (12) said.

Volunteer positions are assigned at the club's weekly Thursday meetings. Club members enjoy assisting others in any way possible.

"(Joining Key Club) seemed like the perfect way to become more engaged in both high school and the Fort Wayne community," Ben Dvorak (10) said.

For the Key Club, November and December means more events at which to volunteer.

"We've been doing a lot of holiday events, such as Fantasy of Lights and Holiday Houses, which is run through Habitat for Humanity," Muha said.

The club is also helping the ubiquitous Salvation Army bell-ringers collect donations for the poor.

"There's a guy trying to break the Guinness World Record for continual bell ringing," Detter said. "The record is 62 hours, and he wants to go for 70. Key club members are witnessing the event and helping to cheer him on."

In addition, club members are reaching out to other students to contribute to the spirit of giving. They are asking all students to bring Healthy Choice cans to donate and offering a pizza party to the fifth period class that brings in the most cans.

Dvorak's favorite event of the holiday season was Santa's Workshop at the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center.

"It turned out that the day entailed us dressing up as elves and helping kids with holiday shopping for their families," Dvorak said. "It was a very fun and rewarding experience leading all of these different kids through the rows of items, helping them pick out gifts and in turn learning about their unique personalities."

Although the holiday season tends to be a time for increased commercialization, it also leads to more volunteerism in the community.

"I think a lot of it has to do with people reflecting back on their year. Especially with everyone buying presents and thinking about how fortunate they are, they kind of want to help the less fortunate people," Andrew Crawford (12), Key Club board senior representative, said. "They're in the spirit of giving so they're willing to help out more and volunteer more."

▶150
hours were available for Key Club members to volunteer in November and December

While holiday giving is certainly appreciated, the club stresses the importance of continuing the momentum throughout the rest of the year.

"I think that we can keep this spirit of giving alive throughout the year," Muha said. "Whether you are helping someone around the holiday season or in August, your service can make a huge difference in someone's life. We should always give back to a community that does so much for us, regardless of the season."

BELLS AWAY

Key Club members helped Steve Baska ('11) attempt to break the world record for the longest continual bell ringing as the former student rings for 72 hours without taking a break.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

PHOTOS BY ALLIE NELSON

the EARLY FAREWELL

Winter guard members remain optimistic for show 'Cryin" despite lack of seniors

By William Ngo
Writer

The weather is getting colder, but the heat has just begun for the winter guard. After a second place finish at ISSMA State Finals, the color guard parted from the marching band to prepare for an entirely new season with a sassy, feminine show.

The piece, accompanied by "Cryin'" by Aerosmith, will allow the girls to embody broken-hearted singles turned into independent women. The group will be able to unleash its expressive side of performance in the empowering routine.

For the first time, the winter guard will be performing without seniors. Although many pursued color guard with the band, many members said they did not have time to continue.

"Senior year itself is already time-consuming and stressful...but I loved the experience, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity," graduating member Tammy Do (12) said.

The lack of seniors gives the junior class an early opportunity to lead and encourage underclassmen.

Beginners Christina Delgado (11) and Kaley Gasvoda (10) joined for the first time this year, creating relationships and bonding with the other girls after only a short time. However, the newbies were still expected to keep up. Each teammate was assigned a specific spot in the rifle, flag or dance group.

"I'm still learning with the new members," Delgado said. "I take correction instead of giving it."

The team practices on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from the end of school until 6 p.m. In addition to those days, they meet on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

So far, the guard combined some staging, design of the floor and drill and multiple combos to hopefully form a trophy-winning show. The soundtrack consists of one song instead of a combination of music this year, making the show different from past ones.

Returning as guard director for a fourth year, Jonathan Meader's creativity and leadership sparks confidence in the members for the upcoming season. Unlike other conventional guard shows, Meader's team dances to its own unique beat. Winter guard performed to upbeat mixes for the past couple years rather than modern, slower music.

Wanting the best for them, Meader constantly urges the girls to reach their fullest potential.

"(Jonathan) is challenging us a lot. He's giving us complex work, and it's great to see everyone work to get it all down," Sabrina Medert (11) said.

To strengthen their bonds, the group members spend a vast amount of time together outside of practices as well. For instance, they have team breakfasts and have an annual Christmas party. They also emphasize teamwork by establishing guard sisters, an unwritten system where every member is assigned a newcomer to directly help in practices and to exchange gifts with at competition.

"(Guard sisters) is really beneficial for the new people who need to learn things or meet new people," Allie Ciraza (11) said. "A guard sister can introduce you to her group of friends."

The first competition, Jan. 26, will be a small peek for what is in store. The team plans to take advantage of it by assessing what they need to work and improve on. When it comes to the whole season, members wish to place higher than they have in past years and grow in ability, work ethic and performance level.

Winter guard will work hard and persistently to grow as a team in hopes of succeeding throughout the season. Even with the absence of seniors, the girls overcome odds and catch every toss.

"You are not born able to spin a flag or rifle," Medert said. "It's something we've worked towards, and it's amazing to see how far everyone has come."

1. Amy Craker (11) separates from the rest of the group as she performs her solo during the performance. 2. Members throw flags as others dance interpretively. 3. Guard members line up in flag formation, evoking emotion. 4. Madison Barnes (11) and Sabrina Medert (11) practice their falls during a rehearsal. The team trains for up to eight hours every Saturday in preparation for competitions.

Fourth year biomedical students take trip to Parkview

Select group gains hands-on experience in emergency room, explore future careers in medical field

By Colby Shoup
Writer

The twenty students that made it through all four years of the Biomedical Program were given the opportunity to experience an emergency room firsthand on Nov. 30 with their teachers Tammy Behrens and Kimberly Crawford. This group of students considering careers in the medical field travelled to the Parkview Medical Center Emergency Room to dissect a heart, create prosthetic limbs and test local water samples for contaminants.

Some students were surprised to hear of this trip because in the early 2000s, the Southwest Allen County School Board made the controversial decision to eliminate field trips, a result of budget cuts. According to assistant principal Dianne Moake, however, programs like Project Lead the Way follow a national curriculum that includes several experiences outside the classroom, funded by Perkins grant funds through PLTW.

"You're supposed to create ways to enhance what the students have learned in the past three years," Moake said.

The board has already approved several other experiences for this year's students, including a mentorship.

Although they had been learning about the medical field for four years, students learned lessons in the trip that couldn't be taught with just a textbook or a project.

"We learned about how an effective ER functions and the importance of biomedical innovations in a busy medical workplace," biomedical student Hanita Epstein (12) said. "We were given a detailed tour of the ER along with a presentation about a specific person's case and his time spent at PRMC (Parkview Regional Medical Center) recovering."

Students who participated in the trip insisted that the experience and the class itself taught them important lessons that they will need if they want to work in the medical field. Epstein, who wants to pursue oncology in college, said that she would recommend the class because it helped her advance both socially and professionally.

"At the end of the four years, you are sure that you want to go into medicine. The teachers are inspirational and each year is a new adventure. After four years, your class becomes your family," Epstein said.

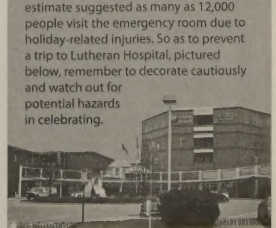
Biomedical student Nikki Dolfuss (12), who plans to be a pediatrician, would also recommend the class to underclassmen.

She said that the small class sizes and small group sessions at the hospital allowed for a an exciting and personal and hands-on experience.

"You get to do fun things like dissect a heart, make a mannequin with clay that represents the body systems, create a prosthetic arm and hand and test local water samples for contaminants," Dolfuss said. "(The class) covers a lot of careers, so even students who don't want to be doctors or surgeons might find something they do want to do like work with DNA or Biomedical Engineering."

A TRUE SACK OF COAL

According to an American Health Association Report, rates of cardiac mortality rise to their highest levels during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. One estimate suggested as many as 12,000 people visit the emergency room due to holiday-related injuries. So as to prevent a trip to Lutheran Hospital, pictured below, remember to decorate cautiously and watch out for potential hazards in celebrating.



Joy of holiday season transcends abused commercial aspect

There are a lot of things that are very easy to hate. New sitcoms. Rap music. Skinny people who say they are fat. It's the same with holidays; I have something negative to say about almost every nationally recognized holiday in America. The Fourth of July is too loud; Valentine's Day is only fun for those who are not alone; no one actually thinks about the president on President's Day; I don't own anything green, so St. Patrick's Day just involves a lot of unjustified pinching.

Christmas is not like that.

I recognize that Christmas is one of the most commercialized holidays to ever exist. Even before the last trick-or-treater has returned home, stores have aired their holiday savings commercials and started hanging wreaths from the ceiling. The radio stations start blasting Christmas classics sometime in November. Christmas isn't a day of giving or celebrating –it's a day of buying presents and life-sized Santas and scented candles that, through positive association, encourage other people to buy things.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

But in spite of this, come December 1st I am counting down the days until those presents go under the tree. I turn on the radio and sing Christmas carols alone in my car. I watch the same Christmas movies that I have seen a thousand times, and I am enchanted (There's just something about that Claymation reindeer that gets me every time). In the weeks leading up to December 25, I am, for the lack of a better word, merry.

Even as a child I never believed in Santa Claus. The whole story was just so convenient; a jolly bearded man who kept an eye on all 7 billion people in the planet every day and travelled to every continent in one night? Unlikely. And no man, no matter how round, could possibly eat that many cookies in one night. At the age of five, I marched downstairs and told my mother that I was on to her little shenanigan and that if she wanted me to keep the tale of her deception from my brother and sister that I'd better receive an extra Christmas candy or two. Well, I'm paraphrasing–but it went something like that.

What I'm saying is that Santa is not, and never was, the appeal. Sure, I sat on his lap in shopping malls and wrote him letters. But we all know that those letters never went to the North Pole. And that shopping mall Santas are more creepy than festive.

I don't think it's the presents, either. A lot of people say that the joy of giving is the best part of Christmas. I'd say they are wrong. Yes, we give presents because they make our friends and family happy, but we also give presents to receive something in return. New sweaters from our moms, poorly fitting socks from our relatives, last minute label makers and stationary from our friends who forget to put us on their shopping list.

I do love holiday food, but it's not like I can't eat a candy cane in June. The decorations are nice, but who really needs a life-sized inflatable manger set? The majority of holiday commercials are annoying, I hate that Michael Buble has his own Christmas album, and there's nothing worse than taking Christmas card photos–my dad always tries to make them funny, and they never are.

Maybe it isn't one thing at all. Maybe it's the whole experience. It's waking up at eight o'clock on Christmas morning and feeling like a five-year-old again. It's walking through the snow with a Starbucks holiday beverage in one hand and a red and green mitten on the other. It's ending up with endless Christmas pajama sets that you can only wear three months out of the year.

So go spend ten dollars on a useless reindeer mug that you'll never use again. Pretend like there's actually a jolly, bearded man capable of carrying 7 billion presents on a sleigh barely larger than a minivan. Buy overpriced holiday drinks and fruit cakes that no one will ever eat. It's Christmas; don't criticize the commercialization, embrace the experience.

Unless, of course, you don't celebrate Christmas. In that case, feel free to disregard all of the above.

DEC. 14 — BEGIN

Pick up a guide to survive finals week and the holiday season that follows the exam week.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

LACE UP SKATES — DEC. 15

Every winter Headwaters Park transforms into a delightful skating rink. A night of fun with friends, family or a date only costs $7 a person ($5 to skate and a $2 skate rental fee).

GET IN THE GIVING MOOD — DEC. 16

Volunteers are always needed during the holiday season. Some popular holiday charities include the Community Harvest Food Bank or the Salvation Army. Also, visiting a nursing home is an easy way to bring cheer to the elderly who may be alone on Christmas.

> "The holiday season is the best time to volunteer. It's a time to appreciate all that you have while helping those who are less fortunate."
>
> ZACH MCFARLAND (12)

FINISH SHOPPING — DEC. 17

With a week before Christmas, it's time to get that last-minute shopping done. A good place to start is a large department store like Macy's or Sear's. These super stores offer clothes, appliances and home decorations; the perfect place to find a gift for every family member and friend.

in a holi DAZE

BY KATE TROUTMAN
Writer

When the bell rings on Dec. 21, students will run out the doors in anticipation of two glorious weeks of sleep, holiday festivities and relaxation. It's the first day of winter, and the energy is palpable. Although this excitement wears off after a week or so, this list of wintry activities is enough to keep every student occupied through the holiday season.

STEP INTO SKIS — DEC. 18

For adventure and enjoyment of the great outdoors, head over to Fox Island for some cross-country skiing. Rented skis go for $6 an hour. There are over six miles of trail to enjoy.

FANTASY OF LIGHTS — DEC. 19

Each year, different companies or families sponsor intricate light displays at Franke Park downtown. Everyone is welcome to come and drive through the multiple light displays. All proceeds go to the AWS Foundation.

SLIDE IN A SLED — DEC. 20

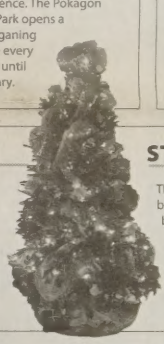
Sledding is the perfect winter activity. One of the best sledding hills in Fort Wayne is the Whispering Meadows hill, located near Whispering Woods Drive. Another great hill is located just beyond the entrance to Kekionga Shores off Liberty Mills Road."I love the feeling of the wind blowing in my face as I speed down the hill," Jacob Nemeroff (10) said. If sledding is too mainstream, then try tobogganing, a slightly more exciting sledding experience. The Pokagon State Park opens a tobogganing course every winter until February.

GO CAROLING — DEC. 21

"I want to bring the spirit of Christmas to everyone's heart."

SARAH YDE (12)

According to Buddy the Elf, "the best way to spread holiday cheer is singing loud for all to hear." Grab some friends and hit the town with warm clothes and a few Christmas tunes.



PUT GIFTS UNDER TREE — DEC. 22

Every child, including high school students, looks forward to an abundance of colorfully wrapped presents underneath the Christmas tree when they walk down the stairs Christmas morning. Some great present ideas include a Yankee Candle for Mom, a grill for Dad and a new movie for younger siblings. When in doubt, everyone appreciates a nice Starbucks gift card.

START THE OVENS — DEC. 23

There is nothing better than freshly baked Christmas cookies to counteract the cold weather outside. "I love how something simple like baking cookies during the holidays can bring people together," Hannah Miller (11) said.

PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

ENGAGE IN A FRIENDLY SNOWBALL FIGHT — DEC. 24

Assuming snow falls by Christmas Eve, an old-fashioned snowball fight brings out the competitive side in friends and family. The more people, the better. Just don't forget gloves. "I love making a territory and building up walls to prepare for the intense snowball fights," Charlotte Neuber (12) said.

> "I love making a **territory** and building up walls to prepare for the **intense** snowball fights."
>
> CHARLOTTE NEUBER (12)

SEE NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHTS — DEC. 25

After unwrapping gifts, conclude the day by seeing the lights in local neighborhoods. The famous Christmas lights in Emerald Lake are breathtaking, and maybe even sit in Santa's lap for a picture. Another inviting house of lights can be found in Bridgewater, where the lights are synced to Christmas music from a local radio station.

PHOTO BY VERONIKA GROTE

Perennial senioritis overwhelms current senior class

Teachers warn 'race is not finished,' suggest students acknowledge importance of work ethic in college

BY ALLIE NELSON
Designer

By the end of the first semester, few seniors can deny experiencing a lack of motivation due to their rapidly approaching graduation.

Senioritis, a condition found only in 12th graders, describes the mindset where students ignore the academic pressures of senior year. The common effects of senioritis--procrastination, slacking, a loss of interest in grades--only worsen as the year progresses.

"Seniors are, for the most part, ready for the more self-directed, individually tailored educational experience that awaits them at college. But here they are, still caught in a seven-period day, learning in the same manner they have been taught for their entire lives," English teacher Scott Hill said.

Because most seniors are accepted to college before graduation, students do not feel the need to exert energy into high school classes. A large portion of students also participate in higher education or internships through Anthis Career Center, making these seniors feel already disconnected from high school and a part of the real world.

"Once you are a senior and you are reaching the end, there is no desire to be at school anymore," Whitney McPheters (12) said. "You find high school repetitive and, after four years, redundant."

Because McPheters has already been accepted to her college of choice, Ball State, where she will major in elementary education, the 43 minute classes, day after day, week after week, seem monotonous. It leaves the average senior questioning the amount of time not only spent at school, but the exasperation of homework as well. Why should students spend every moment of senior year on high school work when confident that their future path is guaranteed?

With their future rapidly approaching, students shift to focusing on preparation for college and careers rather than their high school classes.

"This year the work load has been the greatest," Alec Ritter (12) said. "College applications and scholarship submissions have taken time and focus off school work."

Seniors often seek ways to avoid the effects of senioritis. Many participate in higher education and internships to assert their independence from the school, leaving several class periods early and participating in new activities to lessen their lack of interest in high school.

EVOLUTION OF A SENIOR

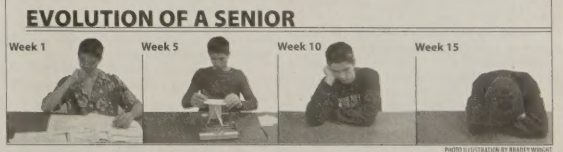


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRADLEY WRIGHT

The best remedy, however, is understanding the truth about life after high school. In reality, college or any future path beyond is often harder than it may seem. Not only are the class sizes larger, but the work load is greater and more challenging.

This lack of knowledge about the struggles beyond high school causes seniors to focus on the positive aspects of independent college life rather than the financial hardships and academic burdens each class entails.

"Unfortunately, the good side of college is often overshadowed by the amount of work that (students) must do on their own," trigonometry teacher Junior Stailey said. "So the funny part about senioritis is that they really don't know how good they have it now. They just want to get out of this place."

Once seniors leave the place they thought was holding them back, the consequences that follow can be unexpected and shocking.

Regardless of whether plans have been made, seniors in the initial stages of senioritis must realize that they will only be a senior in high school once and that they should enjoy the time while it exists.

"The race is not finished," Stailey said. "Keep going until the end."

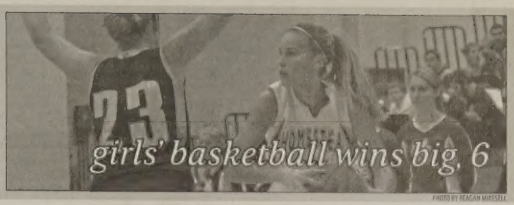


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Athletes work to maintain focus as early victories provide wrestlers with confidence

By Tyler Koteskey
Sports Editor

The wrestling team began its season with an impressive record of 4-1, including a vital win over DeKalb on Senior Night.

"So far, as a team we have had a pretty good start to the season," Zach Carlstrom (12) said. "We started off 2-1 after our first triple dual and have improved to 4-1 since. We are definitely seeing improvement and are moving in the right direction."

The team began the season hosting a high-profile "super dual" meet against three other schools. It came out of that night with a 2-1 record, setting a precedent for more victories.

The team backed it up with another victory on the road against Norwell.

Despite losing several seniors from last year's team and switching coaching staffs, the team has displayed its resiliency by putting together an incredible start to the season.

Some believe the true reason the team has been so successful is its rigorous practices.

"It is all just a reflection of how much work we put into the practice room," David Strzelecki (12) said.

Strzelecki, the team's senior captain, has continued to amaze, as he remains undefeated on the season.

"I am undefeated at this point in the season and that brings me a great sense of confidence; however, I have to keep working hard in practice and improve every day. I can't let myself get cocky," Strzelecki said.

> "Our main goal is to be wrestling our best in February. We would like to send as many people to advance to state as possible, and we want to improve each week."
>
> **ZACH CARLSTROM (12)**
> *Varsity Wrestler*

▶2

number of wrestlers the wrestling team advanced to State competition last year

The Spartans have faced tough competition in many of their meets, but their toughest competition was conference rival Carroll.

"So far, (the toughest team) was Carroll; they have a strong team top to bottom," Strzelecki said.

Arguably the most important match of the long season as of yet was the Senior Night victory against DeKalb.

"Senior night meant a lot to me being a senior," Strzelecki said. "It really is like no other meet. And also the spotlight on the mat makes everything seem more intense, which was fun. It was great to be able to pull off a victory in front of our own fans."

Though the team is still very young with many underclassmen wrestlers, it still features several senior wrestlers, who were honored that night, including Strzelecki, Carlstrom, Andy Papadakis (12) and Frank Martin (12), among others.

The wrestlers are enthusiastic about their initial success and eager for future victories.

"Our main goal is to be wrestling our best in February," Carlstrom said. "We would like to send as many people to State as possible, and we want to improve each week."

Last season, the team sent two wrestlers, Kody George ('12) and Martin to the state tournament. In the offseason, long-time head coach Randy Pursley resigned his position, turning it over to former Spartan wrestler Justin Wright.

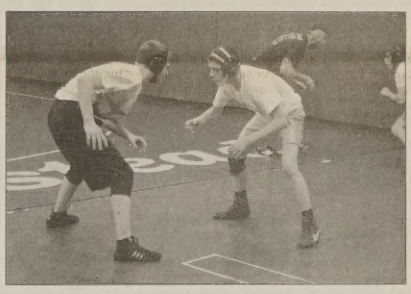
"We have a fairly young team this year, but if we keep up the hard work that we have been putting in all season, we will be a strong team," Chase Woosley (11) said.

Woosley is one of the younger wrestlers that has had to fill in new spots on varsity on the very young team.

Along with its dual and "super dual" meets they have competed in this season, the team has travelled to many prestigious invitationals across Indiana, including the Plymouth Invitational, Snider Junior Varsity Invitational and the "C" Invite at DeKalb.

The team will be kept busy over winter break as they travel to the Holiday Classic Invitational at Mooresville High School and compete in the last home meet of the season against Bellmont on Jan. 3.

These meets will help prepare them for the postseason, beginning in late January, at which point the team looks forward to proving its dominance throughout the state.



Jack Franklin (9), an influential newcomer to the team this year, practices his techniques against a teammate. The team credits its depth at all weight classes as one of its greatest contributors to the early success. The younger athletes will continue the team's dominance.

Freshman starter strives to take team 'to the next level'

At 6-feet-7-inches tall and 285 pounds, Caleb Swanigan (9), or "Biggie," has landed a position on the varsity basketball team this year as starting center. Swanigan is anticipated to be a huge asset to this season's team, and the gap in age difference from his teammates seems to be a leading cause in his improvement.

Spartana: How does being a freshman affect your position on the team and on the court?

Swanigan: It doesn't change my view. (It) just makes me want to go out and play harder.

Spartana: What do you believe you can contribute to your team?

Swanigan: I think I can take Homestead to the next level and compete for a state championship.

Spartana: How do you think playing with all upperclassmen will affect your performance?

Swanigan: Playing with the older guys makes me want to prove myself and play better.

Spartana: Do you think Homestead athletics provides the necessary competition for you to keep improving?

Swanigan: Yes, because I have to show people how good I am and prove that I deserve to be on varsity. Coach Johnson lets the player play and doesn't hold them back.

Spartana: What are your expectations for your first year on the team?

Swanigan: I want to compete for a state championship and be the best player I can possibly be.

Spartana: What are your overall goals for your high school basketball career?

Swanigan: I want high school (to) just be a launching pad to me playing in college.

Spartana: Because you also play football, does the training ever affect your basketball season?

Swanigan: No, I still manage a packed schedule, so I can do my basketball workouts during football season.

Spartana: In the future, do you plan on focusing on one sport instead of two? Why?

Swanigan: Yes, I plan to play one sport in college and senior year of high school depending on my height at the time of graduation. I will probably play basketball because (playing) one sport and the training to be a pro can be enough work by itself.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Caleb Swanigan (9) looks to capture a rebound during a game against Warsaw High School.

Spartana: What do you think your future looks like concerning sports beyond high school?

Swanigan: I think I have a great chance of being a good college player and hopefully (I) can make it to the (professional) level.

Spartana: Do you prefer or enjoy one sport over the other?

Swanigan: Yes, I enjoy basketball more than football. In basketball, the big man position has more glory to it.

Spartana: How does the competition of travel basketball compare to the school's basketball league?

Swanigan: In travel basketball the competition is at a higher level because of all the talent put together in one super team. Travel puts you more to the challenge of competing.

Spartana: What are some of your biggest obstacles this year and what are you doing to improve them?

Swanigan: My biggest obstacle this year is maintaining a high GPA, because my grades come first.

Spartana: What or who motivates you while playing?

Swanigan: During my workouts, my uncle pushes me to get through, but during games, I'm just playing for my school. Knowing how much it relies on me (helps me) perform so we can have a great season, an even better post season and compete for the ultimate goal: a state championship.

Youth thrives on dive team

Athletes provide strong depth despite inexperience

By Sydney Isroff
Writer

Despite being a predominantly younger team, the boys' diving team has stepped up their game in order to succeed this season. Many new divers have joined the program, mostly talented underclassmen, including standout Kevin Frebel (9).

"Since our team has a strong varsity, which usually dives in most of the meets, I think we will do pretty well as a team." Frebel said. There have been three meets so far, in which Spartan divers have done well and placed in all of them.

Divers to watch for are Patrick Rittenhouse (11), Ryan Moore (10), and Kevin Frebel (9).

"The underclassmen are doing really well, improving a ton since the last day." Moore said.

> "It is still fresh in the season, and I think we will be able to improve very much by the end of the season."
>
> **KYLE FREBEL (9)**
> *Diver*

Different strategies are taken to prep before meets, some divers listen to music.

"I usually visualize each one of my dives individually and listen to music to keep myself calm." Rittenhouse said.

The team trains every day after school where the boys are given time to practice their individual dives.

"I think we have a lot of potential this season" Rittenhouse said. "We're returning a lot of talent from last season along with gaining a lot of eager underclassmen."

Rittenhouse is the top returning diver from last year's squad.

There are a record amount of Homestead divers compared to previous years. With such a big team, the chances of divers going to state have greatly increased, yet there is also more room for improvement. The newly joined freshman divers have been improving rapidly since the first day.

The impact of having students from all classes is substantial on this team. With older, experienced divers facilitating the development of younger runners, the entire team builds toward more improved dives and overall, improved scores at meets.

"It is still fresh in the season, and I think we will be able to improve very much by the end of the season." Frebel said.

The team lost important senior divers last year, but also has a lot of potential with the returning divers. Practicing every day, the divers hope to send some boys to state this year and are willing to put in the work to do so. Last year, diver Tyler Warren ('12) advanced to the State Finals. Because of his success, the boys now hope to send more to follow in his footsteps.

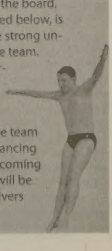
While individuals improve well individually, all the athletes have significantly benefited from a very team-oriented atmosphere.

The team has started a new tradition this year where they do a practice meet the day before a meet to practice their dives the way they would do them the next day. By taking these extra measures, the team hopes this extra practice will help them get to Sectionals, Regionals and State. Their goal is to send at least a few divers to each of those meets, thereby adding to their overall team score.

"I am looking forward to the rest of the season and what is have in store for our team."

NEW KIDS ON BOARD

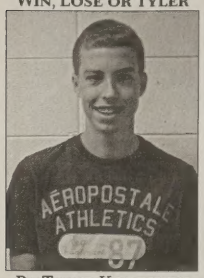
Though no amateur on the board, Ryan Moore (10), pictured below, is considered one of three strong underclassmen leading the team. Despite losing Tyler Warren ('12), who competed at State last year, the relatively inexperienced boy's dive team shows potential for advancing as far as Warren. The upcoming NHC Conference meet will be a critical point for the divers to prove their skills.



Notre Dame fans ecstatic as Irish go undefeated during regular season

I have never really been a fan of college football. There was just something about it that never seemed appealing: the lower level of play (compared to the NFL), the SEC dominance and especially the lack of a good playoff system. There would always be some reason to argue at the end of the season. The undefeated Boise State team would claim its team won, but the dominant winner of the Fiesta Bowl would claim its team won. It wasn't the same as college basketball's iconic March Madness. Yet, from all this internal hatred of college football came the 2012 season and Notre Dame football.

WIN, LOSE OR TYLER



BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Sports Editor

As the rest of the nation jumped on the good ole' Johnny Football bandwagon (or should I say, Johnny Heisman), Notre Dame has silently put together one of its greatest seasons in its rich history. They didn't demolish any SEC teams, nor did they feature a star quarterback or electric offensive schemes. They just won all their games.

I know being undefeated in a 12-game college football season isn't the greatest of accomplishments (just ask Ohio State, who has done so 6 times), yet the Irish have undoubtedly had a spectacular season. They are 12-0 on the season and recently defeated rival USC to punch their ticket to the BCS National Championship Game in Miami. This season was an undoubtable success for Notre Dame and their loyal fans.

College football fans were ecstatic about this victory; the Midwest have been deprived of national champions for years. The last Midwest team to win the BCS title was Ohio State in 2002, and the last team from Indiana to win it was Notre Dame in 1988. Needless to say, it's been a while since any Midwest team has made its fans proud. Notre Dame football fans have basically waited their whole lives for this moment, and now that the moment is here, they are taking full advantage of it. For example, I'm not sure if I've seen Ben Landrigan (11) wear anything other than a Notre Dame shirt for the last week. The victory is in the minds and conversation of every college football fan at Homestead.

> "I have heard several arguments against them such as 'Alabama's gonna kill them" or 'They got lucky.' I'm not trying to be cynical, but I am sensing a little jealousy from their arguments."
>
> **TYLER KOTESKEY**

However, not everyone at Homestead was ecstatic about Notre Dame's sudden success. Every day for several weeks, on my way to fourth period, I would hear the same three underclassmen arguing about none other than the ensuing Notre Dame-USC game. Students donned opposing t-shirts and made bets on the outcome of the game. It was big news for this area as a whole. I have heard several arguments against them such as "Alabama's gonna kill them" or "They got lucky." I'm not trying to be cynical, but I am sensing a little jealousy from their arguments. Maybe Alabama will blow Notre Dame out, and this column would be for naught. It still would not diminish the significance of this season. I would be wary of betting against the Irish in part by their resiliency: they just keep winning. Also, if Notre Dame has been lucky, it has been consistently lucky, winning close overtime games against Stanford and Pittsburgh.

After the Irish conquered USC in their last game, cameras followed an emotional Manti Te'o as he celebrated with his teammates and hugged his coach. In that moment, you couldn't help but feel excited for the team. The team that has been an underdog all season now sits on top of college football. Although I had not originally been a fan, there have been few games in college football history that excited me this way.

Nevertheless, Vegas Odds Makers still have them as a 9-point underdog against Alabama in the championship game, and some longtime Irish supporters are even beginning to doubt their team. Undoubtedly, the Irish face their toughest challenge against a notorious Alabama squad that has won two of the last three championships.

This Notre Dame season has been memorable for many reasons. With both Notre Dame and Indiana sitting atop collegiate sports, fans are ecstatic about their respective teams' success. I've learned several things from this college football season.

One would be the failure of the BCS system (Northern Illinois in a BCS Bowl?). On ESPN's Heisman Trophy presentation, in an interview, Irish linebacker Manti Te'o summed it up best when he said, "There's nothing like college football." He even went on to call the sport "pure." Another was the ability of a team to rise above its past seasons and become a champion, a concept inspiring to every young athlete with a dream of playing pro. Finally, this season has demonstrated that there's nothing in the entire world like Notre Dame Football.

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MITCHELL

Girls' basketball dominates opponents, improves team unity

BY MATT BARBISH
Writer

The girls' basketball team jumped off to a staggering 5-1 record, with another dominant victory on Fri, Dec. 7 against New Haven. The remarkably young team only consists of only one senior, Emily Bley (12).

Bley has been recovering from a torn ACL suffered over the summer but remarkably returned on Saturday.

"It's crazy because my knee felt completely normal," Bley said.

In her first game back, she was the team's leading scorer on Friday, scoring 32 points, an impressive return from injury . She was a critical loss to the team during her injury, but now, the team is glad to have her back.

The final score of the New Haven game was an incredible 93-22. The girls came out strong and lasted up until the last buzzer, leaving the New Haven squad stunned.

Another key returning player is Sydney Buck (11). Buck has lead the team since her freshman year and has improved every year since.

"I'd say Emily Bley and I are the leaders of the team, along with Josie Fisher (10) and Grace German (10)," Buck said.

Younger players step up to the plate to help lead the team. Buck scored a school-record 38 points and eight three-pointers in a 77-44 thrashing of Marion earlier in the season. Her amazing exploits earned her the award, IBCA/Subway Player of the Week (for District 1 of 3).

"In order for us to be a good basketball team and accomplish our team goals, everyone must do their job well," head coach Rod Parker said. "So far, players understand this concept and have learned to enjoy each other's hard work and commitment to each other. Our team unity is what will allow us the opportunity to win games this season."

Compared to other teams, the girls have strong chemistry on and off the court, which helps them play well and win as a team.

"We definitely work really hard in both practices and games, and we've been shooting the ball pretty well too. We need to work on our communication probably the most," Buck said.

The girls can identify what they need to work on and take steps to improve.

"Our main goal is to win Sectionals and keep advancing from there," Bley said.

> "We definitely work really hard in both practices and games, and we've been shooting the ball pretty well too. We need to work on our communication probably the most."
>
> **SYDNEY BUCK (11)**
> *Basketball Team Member*

The team hopes to do well this season and advance far into the postseason; hard work and lots of practice will get them there.

Thus far, the team has certainly shown that they have what it takes to compete with some of the best team in the state. The Spartans defeated Bishop Dwenger by a score of 72-47 and Marion by a score of 74-44 before returning home for the first time this season. In the home opener, the Spartans defeated Huntington North 58-32 in a low scoring, physical battle. They then cruised at North Side on Nov. 27, 87-31. Their lone loss on the season was to NHC rival Norwell 46-53 at home. The girls felt they played good defense but their shooting was not up to par.

Within the next two weeks the girls will be up against South Side, Carroll and Angola. South Side and Angola both defeated them last year, so the team is out for revenge, when facing them at home.

Coach Parker understands that he is still blending the pieces together of a young team and has a solid plan for their growth for the remainder of the season.

"Being that we are so young, we are looking to improve in the following areas; experience playing together, learning to compete for longer periods of time and finding ways to play physically against good teams," Coach Parker said.

Coach Parker certainly likes the work ethic and spirit of this year's team.

"The members of this year's team work hard to improve as individuals and a team each and every day. They play together and have common goals that will enable them to be a successful team," Coach Parker said.

Top: Sydney Buck (11) scores a basket despite tough defense from an opponent. Buck holds the school record for scoring in a single game with 38 points.Above: Emily Bley (12) shoots a free throw. Returning for her final season, Bley is an essential leader for the team.

OUTSTANDING UPSET

On Tuesday night, the girls' basketball team had its biggest victory thus far in the season. It defeated the fourth ranked team in the state, South Side. The Spartans led the game early, as the Archers trailed by 14 after the first period. The Spartans were able to maintain a ten point lead going into the final quarter, leading the Archers 54 to 44. During the final eight minutes of the game, the Archers came alive, outscoring the Spartans by nine points. However, the Spartans were able to hold onto their lead, eventually beating South Side by one point. This victory brought the team's overall record to 6-1. The Spartans were led in scoring by Josie Fisher (10) with 31 points.

{81-80}

Bowling teams strike for success

As groups approach postseason, bowlers strive to improve scores

BY JESSICA TEBBEN
Writer

Intrigued by their initial success, the girls' and boys' bowling teams alike are focusing on improving as a team in order to be victorious in future matches.

Thus far, the girls' team jumped off to a staggering record of 6-1. The girls' team has averaged 843 points-per-match, the 9th best average in the State. Both the boys' varsity and junior varsity teams have records of 3-4, overshadowed by the girls' incredible success.

The team is already looking forward to their future, realizing the potential they have. Head Coach Don Crandall is hoping that the boys' team will make it out of Sectionals. Coach Crandall is also predicting that the girls make it back to the State Championship as they have for the last two years. Individually, the players are also succeeding.

"We believe we have four or five girls that could possibly make it to state," Sydney Brummett (11) said.

Last year, the girls' record for the regular season was 8-1. In the postseason, they won Regionals, placed 2nd in Semi-State and finished in 4th place at the State competition. Though the boys' team did not make it out of the Regional competition, they finished the regular season with a winning record of 5-4.

During the remainder of the season, the team has to stay focused in order to fulfill its goals of advancing far in the postseason. Working as a team is very important, but talented individuals are equally as essential for the team to be strong this year. Sydney Brummett (11) won the individual State competition last year and returns this year to reclaim her title. This season, Brummett has the 4th best average score in the state at 211. Adam Playter (11), is in his third year on the varsity boys' team, and is also expected to be the leader on this year's team.

Coach Crandall said that the teams can perform well in the postseason by making their spares.

Practices that promote friendly competition help the players to improve their technique, essentially increasing their chances of getting into the postseason.

New players this year are being welcomed by the seasoned players, knowing that the newcomers will be the future of the team. They are working with them to make sure that the teams do as well next year as they have so far this year.

> "The team just has to keep working hard and remember what our goal is."
>
> **SYDNEY BRUMMETT(11)**
> *Bowling Team Member*

"This is my first year bowling for Homestead, and I love it," Caroline Bradford (10) said.

While individual players are very important in order to maintain a strong team, the group as a whole has to do well. Crandall promotes teamwork during practices by pairing up players and having them work together, which aids in the encouragement and constructive criticism from teammates. This allows the members of the team to influence each other.

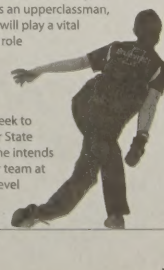
"They have to keep their focus and stay as a team," Crandall said.

The team is also not only looking toward the postseason, but also important competitions that are coming up during winter break. The bowlers hope to come out victorious in these competitions in order to increase their overall record. The postseason begins in January, giving the teams little time to improve.

"The team just has to keep working hard and remember what our goal is," Brummett said.

JUNIOR LEADER

Sydney Brummett (11) has been an integral member of the bowling team since her freshman year. She made it to the Individual State finals the past two years, and was State champion last year. As an upperclassman, Brummett will play a vital leadership role with this year's team. Not only does she seek to defend her State title, but she intends to lead her team at the State level as well.



IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

By Alison Mansfield and Kate Troutman
Feature Editor and Writer

According to ancient Mesoamerican texts, Dec. 21, 2012 marks the end of a 5125-year long calendar cycle—a cycle that, to some, heralds the end of the world. As doomsday approaches, students and teachers are anticipating the apocalypse both in social and classroom settings.

Destruction Discussion

Students also took their apocalypse hysteria to the web with zany online quizzes and doomsday-themed contributions.

In Scott Hill's seventh period etymology class, Danika Bailey (12) and Jacob Newell (12) decided to pay homage to Dec. 21 with "The End is Near," a tongue-in-cheek endeavor targeted at apocalypse aficionados.

According to Newell, the blog originated as a joke.

"(Danika and I) got bored and just started Googling pictures with ridiculous search terms like 'Amurica' and 'redneckitude,'" Newell said. "Somehow that got us to the zombie apocalypse."

Although the inspiration for the blog project was accidental, Bailey said the apocalypse is a topic that appeals to a vast blogger demographic.

"When we were brainstorming, (Jacob and I) decided our blog should be about things that are appealing to the crowd, or 'trending,'" Bailey said. "The apocalypse is something here and now."

"The End is Near" features a mushroom cloud motif, reviews of destructive books such as "Fight Club" and "The Road" and a sidebar where readers can vote on which way they think the world will end.

Both Newell and Bailey deny their belief in an actual apocalypse; however, Bailey said she believes Dec. 21 predictions have had a marked impact on the student body.

"I know a few (people) who are into it to the point of making final plans, while others, like myself, scoff at (apocalypse predictions) because of scientific debunkings," Bailey said.

Newell, however, has taken a more imaginative stance toward the end of the world.

"I don't actually believe we're all going to die (on Dec. 21); we just made the blog to make fun of people who are tweaking out about it," Newell said. "But if the world does end, I hope there are zombies. Then it's game time—I'm going to be ready. I'm going to have something to say to them."

> "Even if the end of the world is inevitable and Earth disappears from the universe itself, the Asclocalypse will still come to pass. And it will thrive."
>
> WILL NORTHQUIST (12)

Apocalypse Affair

While some people are going to prepare for the apocalypse alone, Kaleb Schlatter (12) wants his last night to be shared with his close friends and family.

"The purpose of my party is to celebrate freedom, excitement and each other's company," Schlatter said, "I like my parties to bring people closer together."

KALEB SCHLATTER (12)

Although Schlatter may not believe the world is going to end on Dec. 21, he knew Friday was an opportune time to throw a fantastic party for everyone to "party like it's the last night of everyone's life."

This party, deemed the "Aschlacalypse," will have plenty of pizza, snacks, hot drinks, a chocolate fountain, quality live entertainment and an inspirational ending toast from Homestead's one and only, Will Northquist (12).

Northquist has long been considered a figure of stability, so his presence will surely calm the fears of any potential doomsday believers.

The party is essentially the perfect way to either forget the looming ending of the world or spend it having fun with your friends.

Besides the food and amusement planned, Schlatter has some additional surprises only to be revealed at the party.

This party is not the first party Schlatter has hosted; his biannual parties have become a tradition.

Every party has had Homestead's very own Leaving Rockwell, as well as other live performances and periodic MCing from Schlatter.

As a seasoned party host, he knows that the attendees make the party whatever they choose to make it, which he believes makes the bashes more exciting and memorable.

If the world doesn't end on that Friday night, there will be more parties hosted by Schlatter in the future.

"Each party in itself is the excuse I use to throw another one in the future," Schlatter said.

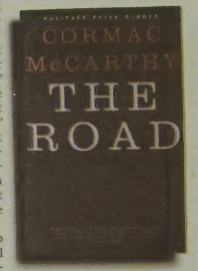
Classroom Chaos

Many have chosen to anticipate the end of the world in social settings; however, honors American literature teacher Travis Fisher also incorporated apocalyptic themes into his classroom.

Students in Fisher's second period class have examined existential quandaries and stylistic elements in Cormac McCarthy's "The Road," a harrowing tale of a father and son trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic America.

"All of the literature in the honors American literature curriculum has a strong spiritual component," Fisher said. "'The Road' examines that spiritual component in the bleakest of settings to get to humanity's core values after the material world is scraped away like meat from a bone. As such, it is completely different from the other authors we study -- Steinbeck, Salinger and O'Connor -- and most other books read here at Homestead."

Although "The Road" is atypical in its content and style, Fisher said the discussions prompted by the book have been fairly predictable.



"I think there's been a lot of introspection of the 'what would I do in this situation?' nature, but those are some emotionally raw thoughts that are difficult to share in class," Fisher said. "I can't say that I've been surprised by the responses though; these are universal ideas we're dealing with after all. This generation isn't the first to contemplate the end of the world."

Fisher's students have also delved into the concept of total world destruction through critical analysis of post-apocalyptic movies.

"Watching a movie for class was really awesome," Zach McFarland (12) said. "The visual projection of the material helped me learn more easily than reading."

Having to face both homework assignments and their impending doom, some students were upset by this unit; however, Fisher remains unapologetic.

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and homework deadlines," Fisher said. "If the world ends over the weekend, the research paper is still due on Monday."

Final Foods

When prisoners are given the death penalty, they are given whatever food they request to have as a last meal. Although no students have commited such sever crimes, they will soon be in the same situation as the prisoners. With an imminent end looming inevitably before the people, everyone will have one last meal before the end of the world next Friday. With one last opportunity to eat their favorite foods, regardless of distance or preparation required to obtain the final meal, what would students choose to consume?

LEAH RUMANCIK (11)

"Spicy buffalo chicken pizza, steak, rice, fries, fruit, and Reese's peanut butter cups"

EVAN HART (12)

"My last meal would be entirely eclectic; I'd have General Tso's Chicken, Lasagna, and Deep-Dish Pizza: a schmorgesborg of worldly sustenance."

ANNIE RUMSEY (12)

"Wu's crispy chicken and Sakura's Black Diamond roll."

SCOTT ESPICH (12)

"It's a tie between Outback cheesefries and the shogun sushi roll at Sakura.

THE SPARTANA

NEWS Nick Gamble (12) leads boys' basketball team to victory over Columbia City with a buzzer beater three-pointer. 1

OPINION Left and Write examines the merits of allowing teachers to have guns in school in reaction to the Connecticut tragedy. 3

LIFE As flu season arrives in full force, students and teachers seek ways to avoid catching this contagious illness. 4

SPORTS The hockey team surges past local competition, starting off another season of dominance in the Fort Wayne area. 7

FEATURE Show choirs hold an annual fundraiser, Cabaret Night, at new location and with middle school perfomances. 8

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Friday, February 8, 2013 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

TALKING POINTS

Jon Baker, a teacher fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, intends for the class to examine why and how the Holocaust took place.

PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

Teacher offers Holocaust lecture series

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

Following the discontinuation of his World War II class this school year, world history teacher Jon Baker began a series of lectures about the Holocaust. The four-class course, which began Jan. 30, is open to anyone in the community and meets every Wednesday in the Community Room.

Baker acknowledged that, while the Holocaust is one of the major historical events of the last century, there is only limited class time to cover the topic.

"In so many school districts, you have maybe two days to cover the Holocaust. That's not enough. We're going to talk about the bigger world and the 'never again' idea. How can that become real? What can we do to move that forward?" Baker said.

Park Lickliter (12) attended the first class with only a basic knowledge of what transpired during the Holocaust.

"In school we don't really spend much time learning about one of the most important and horrific events in history, and this class really gives us that chance to try to gain some perspective on how and why it happened," Lickliter said.

Baker planned the class curriculum around the students' rudimentary and general knowledge of the subject.

"A lot of the class is setting the background for what happened during the Holocaust," Baker said. "The cultural changes and the propaganda set the framework for how and why the Holocaust took place."

Baker, who is a teacher fellow at the United States Holocaust

▶ SEE 'HOLOCAUST,' PAGE 2

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MORESELL

blood, sweat & CHEERS

Last second 3-pointer wins game for Spartans

Above: Students rush the court after Nick Gamble (12) connects on a game-winning shot. Below: From top-to-bottom, left-to-right, the starting line up includes Gamble, Seth Coate (12), Joe Ault (11), Caleb Swanigan (9) and Trevor Osborn (12).

By Sydney Isroff
Writer

Ready to pack up and leave, the fans had accepted defeat. The score was 56-58 and Columbia City had the lead. With a few seconds remaining, Nick Gamble (12) got control of the ball and rushed the court. At the buzzer, Gamble shot a three-pointer to give the team the victory, with a score of 59-58.

Within half a second, the student section realized what had just occurred and immediately stormed the court in celebration. Students, proud of their team, grabbed hold of one another and celebrated the unbelievable victory that had just taken place. Shock, mixed with pride, ran through the players, the students and the fans.

The sight of the student section screaming and cheering combined with the nearly impossible shot guaranteed that this game would go down in Homestead basketball history.

"The last few seconds I was just thinking about redeeming myself for the turnover", Gamble said, discussing the winning shot. "After all I thought was 'Wow.' It was a cool and unforgettable moment."

Gamble finished with 16 points

▶ SEE 'BASKETBALL,' PAGE 6

"AFTER, ALL I THOUGHT WAS 'WOW.' IT WAS A COOL AND UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT."

NICK GAMBLE (12)
Varsity Point Guard

New adviser set to lead publications

By Ryan Boylan
News Editor

The week preceding first semester final exams, journalism instructor Rodd Kuhn officially resigned after 18 years in the position.

Students and faculty alike, many surprised by his sudden and unexpected decision, now wonder what will become of the journalism program, which is currently comprised of the annual yearbook Retrospect and bi-monthly newspaper the Spartana.

For the remainder of the semester, Leslie "Coach" Eckler, long-term substitute and longtime friend of Kuhn, will adopt the program temporarily and institute a new developmental plan. Justin Peeper, the Department Chair of World and Classical Languages, has a background in journalism and writes occasionally for the Bluffton News-Banner; he is also mentoring the publications staff.

"We all share the same core values related to our passion toward learning."

LESLIE ECKLER
Publications Teacher

"Mr. Peeper and I complement each other with our skill sets and personalities," Eckler said. "We both possess a resolute commitment to serve as champions and mentors for our exceptionally talented and bright pub leaders."

Though Eckler and Peeper had worked extensively with Kuhn prior to his resignation, neither has committed to take the full-time position, for which SACS is now hiring.

"I had sort of secretly coveted that position for years," Scott Hill, English teacher, said. "The pride journalism students took in their work, the responsibility they took for it—this has always been a department where people do the work because it is real and because they own it."

The position and the responsibilities it entails, however, are more varied than those of the

▶ SEE 'PUBLICATIONS,' PAGE 2

BRIEFS

VARIETY SHOW TRYOUTS
The Variety Show returns for talented students to showcase their abilities for the school. Tryouts are from 3 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 12 and 13 in the HHS Auditorium. Sign up for an audition time slot in front of room 416.

SCHOLASTIC AWARDS
The awards ceremony for all art and writing Scholastic Key winners will take place at 1 p.m. on Feb. 10 at the Grand Wayne Center. Attendees should dress nicely and sit in the section specifically designated for Homestead. For those students who are interested, see Sarah Jones with any further questions.

STANDARDIZED TESTS
Students should prepare for the spring session of standardized tests now. The next SAT testing date is May 4. Register before April 5 to avoid the late fee. The upcoming ACT test date is April 13. Sign up before March 8 for regular registration charge.

JUST BECAUSE WEEK
The sign-up sheets for Dirty Duckers, the dodgeball competition available to junior and senior girls, and Notorious Netters, the volleyball competition for junior and senior boys, are due today. Contact any student government member for more information.

Riley honors freshman for bravery, community service

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Anissa Bredemeyer (9) receives her recognition as a Riley Champion. She aims to use her award as a tool to raise awareness of Crohn's Disease.

By Hamna Qureshi
Writer

Anissa Bredemeyer (9) was named one of the 2013 Riley Champions, along with seven other students from Indiana and surrounding areas. Kroger presents the awards each year and selects each winner based on his or her involvement in the community.

"(These patients) have inspired communities with their bravery and commitment to help others," according to the Riley Children's Hospital website. "Riley Champions reach beyond their own medical challenges to give meaning to their struggles by raising awareness, from organizing blood drives to sharing their stories at events. These young people become our most powerful advocates."

Bredemeyer, who suffers from Crohn's disease as well as Rheumatoid Arthritis, is an active member of the community. She dedicates her time to fundraise for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

"I think it is very important to raise funds for Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America,' Bredemeyer said. "I look at fundraising as a chance to finally find a cure."

Bredemeyer sees her award as an honor and an advantage, as she uses it to advocate for raising

▶ SEE 'RILEY,' PAGE 2

Lockdown to 'dramatically change' athletic fundraiser

Athletic department modifies Dance Marathon event to increase student participation

By Priscilla Lin
Writer

After three decades of providing music, dancing, games and athletic financing, the longstanding Dance Marathon athletic fundraiser has been replaced with an altered and updated Spartan Athletic Lockdown (SAL).

With the dance marathon having just celebrated its 30-year anniversary last year, the athletic boosters decided that it was time to adapt the fundraiser in order to better accommodate current students.

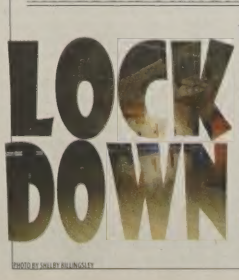
"We have discussed for the last two years that the 2013 event would be the year to dramatically change the event and make it more current," Saghi Togashi, SAL committee chairperson, said. "Times change, students change, and we needed to adapt to these changes."

Although the SAL format is very similar to that of the Dance Marathon, the fundraiser will last 12 hours rather than 24, the cost is $100 per person rather than $300 and students sign up as individuals rather than as teams. Additionally, because the fundraiser only lasts 12 hours, sleeping hours will no longer be enforced, allowing students to spend a greater portion of their time engaged in activity.

Another effective change brought on by SAL is where and how the

▶ SEE 'LOCKDOWN,' PAGE 2

THE LOCKDOWN BREAKDOWN



Who: All Homestead Students who raised $100

What: Student Athletic Lockdown

Where: Homestead High School

When: Feb. 22

Why: To support the Athletic Department

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

▶ RILEY CONTINUED FROM 1

awareness for illnesses.

"So far, the best advantage of being a Riley Champion is getting to advocate more for Crohn's Disease and Riley Children's Hospital," Bredemeyer said. "I think it is important for our community to raise awareness for child illnesses such as Crohn's Disease. Educating the community is always the first step."

Along with raising awareness, Bredemeyer enjoys other benefits of being a Riley Champion.

She was able to attend a Colts football game, meet the team while they were practicing and also attend a Pacer's game.

Bredemeyer met her fellow Riley Champions as well.

"(The other Champions) were cheerful and had amazing personalities," Bredemeyer said. "All of us were extremely excited to meet and get to know each other finally. I love how they were so positive despite their health conditions."

▶75

percent of people with Crohn's disease that will require surgery as treatment over their lifetime

SOURCE: CDC.ORG

Riley Hospital was not, however, the only institution to recognize Bredemeyer for her commitment to the community.

Homestead also recognized her in a ceremony which took place in the community room on Jan. 31.

"We asked (Bredemeyer's) class and any other classes available to come to the community room," Jennifer Bay, assistant principal, said. "At that time, Anissa was honored with flowers, a bear, cake and the reading of a proclamation from the Mayor titling January 31, 2013 as Anissa Bredemeyer Day. Riley presented a banner that we would like hang in the school recognizing Anissa's dedication."

Bay was happy to learn of Bredemeyer's award and believes that it can be a lesson to other students.

"I was excited and proud to hear that Anissa had been named a 2013 Riley Champion," Bay said. "I think (students) can learn that their efforts do pay off in so many ways. I hope that every one of our students can realize that they have something to give back to the community."

Bredemeyer's story touched Bay personally as well and has given her encouragement to work with students.

"I am even more encouraged to continue working with advisory groups and students to find ways to make a difference in our school and community," Bay said.

Even with her devotion to giving back, Bredemeyer still suffers from the effects of her illnesses. Despite her hardships, though, Bredemeyer continues to remain optimistic and hopeful.

She is currently participating in a program at Riley for research about Crohn's Disease.

"I have had to jump over many hurdles with my medical conditions," Bredemeyer said. "I am doing everything I can to give back to the hospital that has helped me so much. I love the saying 'Miracles happen here' because miracles really do happen at Riley."

Bredemeyer did not, however, face her trials alone. She had the support of her family and friends to help her through tough times in which she needed them.

"I am just so very blessed to have my family and friends who support me through everything and took me to Riley to begin with," Bredemeyer said. "I am happy to meet other patients who have experienced miracles at Riley."

Bredemeyer is also looking forward to celebrating her own day on Jan. 31 in Fort Wayne.

"I think it's really cool to have my own day," Bredemeyer said. "I am going to be looking forward to celebrating it with Riley every year."

LIVING WITH CROHN'S

Bredemeyer suffers from Crohn's disease, which is a rare an autoimmune disorder that affects approximately 500,000 Americans. Crohn's disease is an illness in which the body attacks healthy tissue. As a result, people with the disease have chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract. Some of the symptoms include abdominal pain, loss of appetite, weight loss, joint pain and ulcers. The disease may be passed genetically, as 20 percent of those diagnosed have a blood relative with a similar disorder. There are medications to treat the symptoms of Crohn's disease, but there is no cure. People living with Crohn's disease can try to eat a healthful diet and minimize stress to soothe symptoms.

SOURCE: NLM.NIH.GOB

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The computer restrictions now limit students from accessing SparkNotes, a tool to find summary and analysis of different literary works.

Status: True - SparkNotes, a popular website that condenses and abridges dense English texts, is no longer available on school-issued laptops.

Since its launch in 2001, the site has deviated from its roots as a tool to facilitate reading comprehension and developed many subsidiaries such as SparkLife, a self-proclaimed study break focused on forums, lifestyle columns and games.

The site is classified as "Local-Staff/Teacher allow" primarily because it subliminally, though not ostensibly, promotes a shallow alternative to actually completing the reading assignments that are required by core classes. Though other study aids that match SparkNotes' format are still available, there are now fewer means of curtailing the workload in literature-based English classes.

DECA team thrives at District Conference

By Sarah Camino
Writer

DECA participants displayed their proficiency in business strategy at the District Conference on Jan. 19, where over a hundred students were selected to advance to state.

The professional confidence that students acquire, in addition to the connections that they establish with DECA alumni, will serve them the rest of their lives and make them eligible for millions of dollars in scholarships from universities.

"In competitions, students respond to a live scenario that could be happening in the business world right now," Brian McNeal, DECA adviser and business teacher, said.

While team events allot 30 minutes for each group of two to formulate a response to a scenario produced by the judges, students must complete individual events after 10 minutes of solitary contemplation.

"It gives you interview skills and presentation skills in a real-life situation. You have to go in front of a panel of business owners to present, so the confidence that you build and the ability to be able to think on your feet is something that everyone is going to use later in life," McNeal said.

Following a first place finish at district and with aspirations to also finish first at state, Cameron Dark (12) reflects that his participation in DECA has helped him to develop viable skills.

Dark plans to major in business next year.

"The long and grueling hours of DECA have helped me think quicker on my feet. Mr. McNeal's smiling face makes it all worth it," Dark said.

Events exist in various categories, including international business, accounting, finance, retail, entrepreneurship, business innovation and marketing research.

While class work focuses on general marketing concepts and terminology, McNeal offers supplementary study sessions for DECA students twice a week.

"In these sessions, we look at a series that tells you systematically how to do well in DECA," McNeal said.

McNeal has also invited DECA judges to speak to suggest areas for students to hone their abilities.

"Everything we do in class is preparing students for DECA; however, the competition lets students take what they learned and apply it to a real-world scenario," McNeal said.

It is unlikely that participants, even after graduation, have seen the last of DECA.

"DECA is always going to pop up in your life," McNeal said. "One of my former students recently contacted me to tell me that the employee who interviewed him for his job was also a DECA alumni."

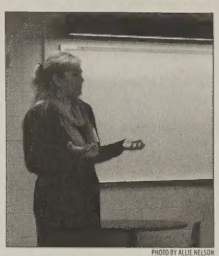


PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

A college representative speaks with the DECA classes about the program's impact on business students.

An admissions counselor from Johnson and Wales University also visited McNeal's class.

"The admissions counselor talked to us about how some of their most successful students have participated in DECA," Molly Ray (12), a DECA student, said.

McNeal acknowledges the benefit of having DECA on a college application.

"Students not only have the confidence to get through interviews but to also reproduce them, and they'll continue to do that for the rest of their life," McNeal said.

▶ HOLOCAUST CONTINUED FROM 1

Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., made it his goal to increase Holocaust education at Homestead. He was able to achieve this mission with the help of the Parent Club. The first class had about 16 attendees, including Alexandra Bush (12).

"We learned about the various types of propaganda that Hitler used to persuade people" Bush said. "We've also been discussing how Hitler had targeted not only the Jews, but also homosexuals, gypsies and other groups of people that he disapproved of."

> "We need not just to talk about history but get involved in it and become part of the process of ensuring that it never happens again."
>
> **JON BAKER**
> History Teacher

Mallory Mills (12), who also attended the first class, said she went because she likes Baker as a teacher and because she's interested in the topic.

"I'm happy that Mr. Baker is teaching this class because the Holocaust is something that every human being should have a deep understanding of," Mills said. "Classes like this can help with that understanding and hopefully help prevent such terrible things from occurring in the future."

The class is particularly stressing the idea of "never again," that the Holocaust should never repeat itself.

"People are very curious about the Holocaust. It makes people explore their own emotions," Baker said. "We need to not just talk about history but get involved in it and become part of the process of ensuring that it never happens again."

The class looks at the repetition of history, at Rwanda, Cambodia and other genocides. Baker hopes that the classes, along with video lectures he is filming for advisory classes, will cause students and the community to think about themselves and their role in the future.

"It terrifies me to think about a world with no World War II veterans or Holocaust survivors," Baker said. "The people who want to rewrite history have a free pen. I think it's important to keep talking about it. It's humanity's worst and best at the same time."

Drivers' education course teaches critical tactics, focuses on oft-ignored 'little tips' while driving

By Tessa Lutz
Writer

Driver fatal crash rates have decreased in Indiana and nationwide, according to Indiana Traffic Safety Facts. In Indiana, declines were most pronounced among young drivers, partially due to the phased implementation of a Graduated Driver Education (GDL) system in 2009 and 2010, and Homestead driving instructors are looking to continue the trend.

The driving portion of drivers' education consists of six sessions that are two hours each. Every instructor has two student drivers in the car.

Students learn how to drive through busy parking lots and how to parallel park in downtown. They are also taught how to drive on the highway, recognize road signs and know of all the tips and tricks necessary for good driving.

"In six hours I can take a really bad driver and make them pretty good," Shawn Harkness, drivers' education instructor said. "I can teach them small things like how to make a better turns more easily (sic) than parents can because I've been doing it so long."

Brian McNeal, also a drivers' education instructor, feels that the skills taught by the class benefit the students more than simply parent instruction.

"Parents do a wonderful job, but there are so many little tips that they just don't think about," McNeal said.

The book portion of drivers' education is held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria.

The driving portion is only available in the summer, but the book portion is available in winter and summer sessions.

The written portion can be taken alone or in unison with the driving aspect.

If enrolled in a class, the students receive a driver's manual for the written test to obtain their license.

Both Harkness and McNeal teach the driving and the written portions of the course.

Harkness believes that the book is too long, that the necessary information could be covered in less time and that the time would be better put to use out driving.

Morgan Kloster (10), a student enrolled in the January session, is excited to take drivers' education because it is a step toward independence and being able to drive herself places.

She does not yet have her permit, but thinks she will like driving.

"I am excited to learn about different driving situations and what to do," Kloster said. "The first thing I thought about going into that classroom? Probably to try and survive this class so I can drive."

Neither McNeal or Harkness have had accidents because of their student drivers. Both however have had to deal with an array of different emotions.

"I had a student who was a senior, a young man, who put the key in the ignition, started the car and started crying," McNeal said. "He said his mom told him he was going to be a horrible driver, (and) he believed her. Before he ever drove, he believed he was going to be a bad driver. His mom was on his case, but was really on his case about driving. Positive encouragement is so important; there is no yelling in my car."

McNeal believes that positive encouragement makes or breaks a student when learning how to drive.

"Practice makes perfect," Kloster said.

▶ PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED FROM 1

average teaching job.

"I think we will want someone who honors the kind of freedom and expectations of quality that are the legacy of our program," Hill said. "But he or she should also have the vision and imagination and flexibility necessary for all 21st Century journalistic endeavors; we should not be content to go the easy way and simply churn out our grandparents' idea of what a newspaper used to be."

Students who have become comfortable with the student-led nature of the publication classes also hope for a qualified instructor, but are wary of someone who will be unreceptive to the time-honored tradition of student self-determination.

"The new pub director definitely needs to be open to the loose way the publications classes are run but still provide helpful input and guidance to the Spartana and Retrospect staff," Ally Hembree (11), co editor in chief of Retrospect, said.

Even without a definitive classroom instructor, the department still boasts the same devoted staff of writers and editors who are familiar with journalistic style and design.

In spite of recent vagaries, they are optimistic about the future that lies ahead.

"I am looking forward to hopefully creating an award-winning yearbook and bringing back the literary magazine," Hembree said.

"The issue of being understaffed has become increasingly prevalent in the last few years, but my hope is that with Coach's new mentorship system we will be able to bring in some new recruits."

The journalism department is not, however, ambitious solely in its pursuit of recognition and increased membership.

It also is concerned with maintaining its role as an integral source of information and creativity.

"We all share the same core values related to our passion toward learning and our dedication to our current and future leaders," Eckler said. "Publications provide the medium through which our students can inform, inspire and engage the Homestead High School community."

THE SPARTANA
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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor.

Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

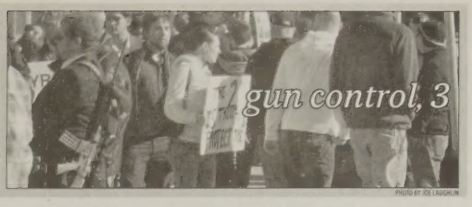
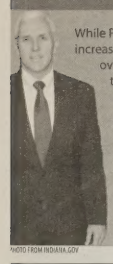


PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

Governor overrides superintendent's responsibilities

Pence goes too far in limiting powers of superintendent, controlling education system

BUDGET BUSINESS



While Pence's plan calls for an increase in funding for schools over the next two years, the second year increase is based off district performance in the states A-F grading system. The proposed increase does not account for inflation, nor does it completely cover the $100 million cut in 2010.

PHOTO FROM INDIANA.GOV SOURCE: JOURNALGAZETTE.NET

By Sophia Brown
Writer

Mike Pence became Indiana's 50th governor on Jan. 14, taking the oath in subfreezing conditions on the Bible Benjamin Harrison used when he was sworn-in as president in 1889 in Indianapolis. Governor Mike Pence was a six-term Republican congressman from Columbus. Pence says he "believes Indiana voters endorsed a conservative education agenda by cementing Republican control of the legislature, even as voters ousted state education chief Tony Bennett, who pushed the education overhaul." Pence also says he'll work with Superintendent Glenda Ritz, but when it comes to state education policy, the buck stops at the governor's desk.

Ritz has promised to roll back Indiana's former Republican Superintendent Tony Bennett's agenda, which includes a private school voucher program and linking teachers' pay to student test scores. When Governor Mike Pence pledged without Glenda Ritz to work with the new superintendent of public instruction to free teachers from the interferences that rob them of time with their kids, it upset Ritz and sparked controversy between them. But what he did not mention was the $300 million his predecessor cut from the public schools.

Some believe that Ritz will be far from powerless and was not overthrown by Governor Pence. As the leader of the Indiana Department of Education, she will oversee the implementation of many of the policies she opposed, which has some of Indiana's charter and voucher advocates feeling uneasy. They fear Ritz's control over those details could be disastrous. Thus sparking controversy between Pence and Ritz in that Pence is going behind Ritz's back in the situation, making her feel as if her voice and opinion doesn't matter.

As superintendent and thus the one who is supposed to be making these decisions, Ritz's feelings of trod-upon toes is understandable. So far it seems that Pence is not going over Ritz's head completely but is making it challenging. Ritz is the superintendent, which by definition is " a person who manages or superintends an organization or activity." Pence should distance himself from her adroitness and let her do the job she was sworn to do. It's almost as if she's being deprived from her job. If she didn't know what she was doing she wouldn't be there in the first place.

LEFT AND WRITE: Debate over gun control in reaction to school tragedy

Gun control necessary for school safety

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Editor

There is nothing quite like a tragedy to unite a nation behind a common cause. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, people were screaming to enter World War II. Still reeling from the aftermath of Sept. 11, blood payment was demanded for the thousands lost. Now, in the wake of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown Connecticut in which 20 students and six teachers lost their lives, the Obama administration has committed a task force to implement stricter gun regulations, has issued 23 executive actions and has asked Congress to pass separate gun laws.

Stopping at nothing to protect its interests, the National Rifle Association has since demonized the president as an "elitist hypocrite" in a commercial and has set itself up as the most vocal opponent of his security measures. But make no mistake, the NRA is not concerned with upholding the archaic and vague Second Amendment, but with its bottom line: the continuation of its extremely extensive influence in the political sphere.

As a lobbying group, the NRA's livelihood depends almost entirely on Americans' access to weapons, and now that the president is openly challenging gun ownership, it has been forced to defend its entire existence. But its defense is weak at best. Rather than working with the president's task force to ensure that rights are not infringed upon but responsibilities are realized, the group is instead proposing putting more guns in schools as a means of protection. This logic is akin to saying the best remedy for a drowning man is more water. The last thing this country needs is an increased availability to guns.

Lest these arguments seem arbitrary and irrelevant, a rural school in Montpelier, a town just across the state line in northwestern Ohio, has already started arming employees with handguns. While these employees do not directly supervise the students and will be taking a training course, it still is foolish to think this measure solves the larger problem at hand. Americans who feel their "rights" to own guns are being threatened must realize that the problem is neither the failure of the country's mental health institutions nor the lack of security in schools, but the hard-line policies of the NRA and other conservative groups

> "The framers of the Constitution could never have predicted the advent of weapons with the capability of killing hundreds at a time, so who are the NRA and like-minded conservatives to say that they should be classified as an unalienable right?"
>
> **CLAIR PRANGER**

that they try so desperately to disguise as the moral high ground.

Nothing can be dealt with in absolute terms, especially the possession of weapons that exist solely for the purpose of homicide. Military-style assault weapons and those that can fire several rounds a second have no place in the general public. The government is not out to take away rifles used for hunting, and those who hunt should not perceive themselves victims in this situation. The framers of the Constitution could never have predicted the advent of weapons with the capability of killing hundreds at a time, so who are the NRA and like-minded conservatives to say that they should be classified as an unalienable right?

It is expected of the public that decisions should be made with the highest consideration for responsibility, not the frivolous exercise of an outmoded commandment.

Students vulnerable in gun-free zones

By Devin Wright
Writer

The Second Amendment declares the right of every American to own a gun. It along with many other God-given – or natural – rights, is inherent in every human. The government does not grant them and therefore cannot take it away. This means that an individual's rights can only be lost one of two ways: one, an individual can commit a heinous crime giving up his rights in the process, or, two, an individual is not educated about his rights and will be led to believe that it never existed in the first place. The founders intended the Constitution to be a tool used by the American people to keep the government at bay and to keep intact those essential liberties born into every human, amongst which is the right to keep and bear arms.

Where does this stop, though? Consider the controversy that has arisen surrounding several school systems around the nation that have begun to put guns in the hands of teachers in order that they may protect their students. This measure is, of course, to prevent mass murders such as the Sandy Hook shooting. It would protect the students from criminals, but many are worried about the dangers of having a gun in the classroom. They shouldn't be. The voluntary teachers would be trained in gun safety and usage. If they chose to have a gun in their classroom, they would keep it in a secure safe, away from student eyes and access. The only allowable time to access the gun would be in the event that a threat was present.

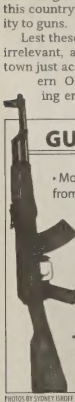
This debate may seem far off, and ultimately irrelevant, but Indiana state law currently allows anybody to carry a gun if authorized by the school. Already there are school districts here in Indiana who have taken serious steps towards arming their educators. Central Noble Community Schools has recently voted to consider the Noble County sheriff's proposal to professionally train and arm up to four teachers in each school. The selected teachers would act as special deputies, and their training would mirror that of a police officer. Teachers carrying guns at Homestead may be in the very near future.

Guns are essential to the defense of oneself and others, but, contrary to popular belief, the primary purpose of the Second Amendment is not self-defense. Guns are given to the people in order to ensure that, if their government were to become tyrannical, the people would be fully able to revolt and create a new government that can ensure their rights. It may seem ridiculous, that the land of the free may need to revolt, but it must have also seemed paranoid to the dissidents of the Soviet Union and Communist China, and even more so of the Jews in Nazi Germany. After these peoples were deprived of arms, they fell into oppression, injustice and, most potent of all, genocide. Learn from history. Don't allow guns to be taken out of the homes of the American pqeople.

Right: A young protester in front of the State House directs her anger at proposed gun control law toward the President. Below: Protesters in front of the State House demonstrate against gun control legislation.

PHOTOS BY JOE LAUGHLIN

GUNS AROUND THE WORLD



- More than 31,000 people die a year from gun shot wounds in the US. (2012)
- Homicide rate in US is seven times higher than the combined rate of 22 other high income countries.
- Firearm homicide rate is 20 times greater than these 22 other countries.
- 38% of American adults say they are dissatisfied with the nation's gun laws and policies and want them to be stricter.
- 43% of Americans have a gun in their home. (2012 Gallup Poll)
- In the United Kingdom, civilians are not allowed to possess semi-automatic and automatic firearms, handguns and armor piercing ammunition. In 2010, the total deaths from firearms was 155.
- Gun control is similar in Sweden to the U.K., and in 2010, the total deaths from firearms was 138.

PHOTOS BY SYDNEY ISROFF SOURCE: GUNPOLICY.ORG

twitter take

Every Wednesday night Sydney Isroff will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Twitter.

Question: "Who or what really caused the blackout at the Super Bowl?"

@Karlyhorse - Karly Bailey (11) ▶ "Everyone not being ready for Beyonce's jelly."

@ABSamatterafact - Abbey Kittaka (11) ▶ "Bane."

@P_Lee17 - Paul Lee (12) ▶ "Illuminati."

@gosh_Samn_it - Sam Moore (11) ▶ "Adam, Blake and Anders."

@bangbladesh - Kameron Hladish (12) ▶ "Ray Lewis knocked the stadium lights out."

@Cameron_Dark - Cameron Dark (12) ▶ "Krispy Kreme."

@R0BINsonH00D - Chris Robinson (12) ▶ "Money Maker Mike."

@SoFreshSoKeene - Amanda Keene (10) ▶ "Only Beyonce can turn me on. - Super Bowl lights"

School board should retain Lake as principal

Lake

In the wake of former principal Rick Smith's departure for the Zimmer Institute, assistant principal and Homestead graduate Steve Lake was appointed as interim principal until a candidate was found to fill the full-time position. With the end of the year in sight, questions are being raised as to who will assume the position of principal. Lake is the best candidate for the job, especially given the strides he's made in the position this year.

Of course, the ability to meet the requirements of a stressful and difficult job is a vital component in a candidate for principal. Fortunately, Lake, who served as an assistant principal under former principal Smith and performed his duties for the year immediately following Smith's departure, is one of the most qualified for the role. He has job experience having filled in for the past year and has an extensive education, including a Bachelor's degree from Ball State University and a Master's degree from Indiana University. The school board will be hard-pressed to find someone who can rival his experience in the position.

The best candidate to take over as Homestead's official principal is someone who knows the school, knows the students and knows the staff. Lake has done an exceptional job as interim principal, and his obvious attempt to make himself more accessible to the student body by walking through the halls, sitting in on classes and becoming a regular on the morning announcements is commendable and has not gone unnoticed. The students of Homestead need and deserve a person so willing and eager to understand them.

Lake attend Homestead as a student and loved it enough to come back as a staff member. Naturally, Lake would be very familiar with the types of problems that face Homestead High School, as well as understanding of the surrounding community. This quality speaks volumes about his love of and devotion to the school. In an era of slashed education budgets, Homestead's top position requires someone who is willing to go above and beyond. To Lake, the school means more than a place to pick up a check. "I went to school here, I graduated here and I'd like to retire here," Lake said. "I bleed blue and gold."

The Ed Board

Joe Laughlin
Laura Zweig
Dani Castonzo
Tori Barnard
Clair Pranger
Ryan Boylan

{The Bottom Line} *Homestead needs a permanent principal for the upcoming school year, and Steve Lake is the best person for the job.*

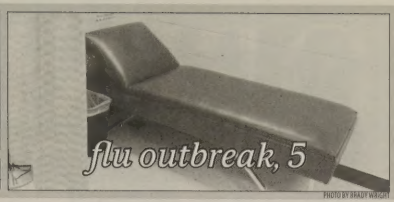


PHOTO BY BRADY WRIGHT

Students express appreciation for poetry

Annual national competition provides an artistic outlet for student poetry performers

PASSION FOR POEMS

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

The two poems sealing Alyssa Hoffman's (11) victory were "Sanctuary" by Jean Valentine and "The Legend" by Garrett Hongo. Students chose the poems based on personal preference and oration potential. As the winner, Hoffman has the opportunity to advance to State and, if declared the winner of the state competition, advance to Nationals. Previous competition winners include last year's winner Monica Dollive (12), who also performed well at the state level. This year's runner-up was Bailey Miller (11).

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

Rebecca Auger (11) stands in the center of Stephanie Merkling's environmental science room. She clears her throat and looks to English teacher Scott Hill. He nods, indicating it's her turn to begin. She closes her eyes for a final second of concentration and transforms, launching into an emotional monologue about the ridiculousness of every fairy tale characters' to-do list.

Auger was just one student participating in this year's Poetry Out Loud (POL) competition. POL, organized by Hill yearly, is an annual competition held by the National Endowment for the Arts. At the school level, students memorize and recite two poems from the official POL anthology.

"POL has a unique competitive spirit, I think—sure, it's a competition, but it's one that feels like an appreciation, or group celebration of language, as much as it does a contest," Hill said.

While most students admitted to participating for extra credit in their AP Literature classes, they were surprised by how much they enjoyed the experience.

"I'm not usually someone who likes poetry," Jack Render (11) said. "It was really interesting to see everyone express their poems."

Alyssa Hoffman (11) was crowned the winner of the competition, which was held after school on Jan. 30.

She will move on to compete, now with three poems, at State Finals on Feb. 23. Hoffman said she was "stunned" that she won among what Hill deemed the "strongest showing ever."

"I went in hoping to make it past the first round," Hoffman said. "I was sure I wasn't going to win."

One of those judges was Troy Bigelow, an English instructor at Ivy Tech, whose book of poetry "Resuscitivity" will be published in late March. He commended the students for their grasp on poetry.

"Poetry increases young people's literacy. They come across things that have been put into words that they had never been able to articulate before—the things that bind us as humans," Bigelow said.

While only Hoffman will continue in the competition, the rest of the competitors gained a love of poetry that will continue with them.

"Journalism expresses information, but poetry expresses feelings and emotion in a personal way that we don't have as much of in society today," Render said.

Auger acknowledged the changing role of poetry in today's world of media.

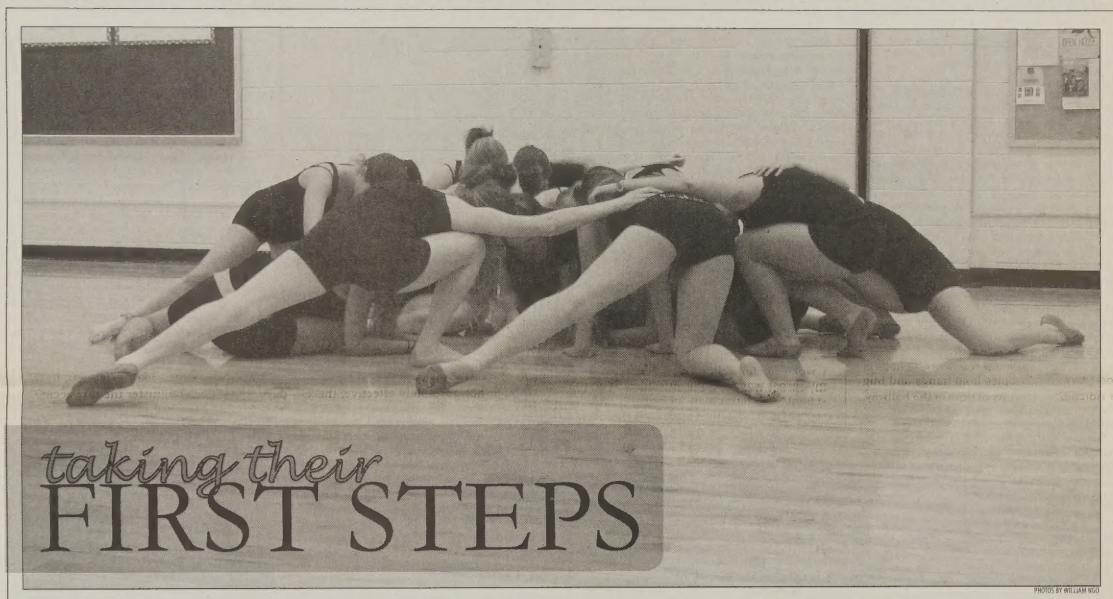
"It's not like Shakespeare. Everyone says, 'What does that mean?'" Auger said. "A's language is changing, it becomes more difficult to understand what they're trying to say in the context of their time."

The competitors and competition organizers agreed that reading poetry out loud gives one a new appreciation of the piece.

"Every reading is a surprise," Hill said. "POL is an intimidating enterprise. I like to give students the opportunity to do scary things and conquer them."

Regardless of the competition results, all of the participants now have two memorized quotes to carry with them.

"To memorize a poem is to make it a part of you, too," Hill said. "It's one thing to say you 'like' an author or poet, but to memorize their language is to own it like a kind of invisible tattoo that you can show off only when you choose, to the people you think will get it, or you can keep it to yourself."



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM NGO

taking their FIRST STEPS

Dance team continues tradition of excellence despite shortage of upperclassmen

By William Ngo
Writer

Changing foot positions and protocol gave the dance team a new dynamic as it began to compete in hopes of a clean sweep at State. A year of significant alterations challenged the girls to adapt quickly while perfecting their routines.

The girls, typically led by several seniors, are anchored by only two this season, Emma Franklin (12) and Rachel Torres (12). Franklin had been on dance team for seven years while Torres had joined for six; both had to become accustomed to the underclassmen majority and shortly did.

"All of the girls have really proved to be amazing, and I feel lucky to lead this team," Franklin said.

The co-captains took advantage of their seniority by stepping up and setting examples for their fellow teammates.

Hannah Dickey (9) had the rare honor of saying she was freshman who made varsity, the last one being six years ago. Although a newcomer, she had to make sacrifices in her social life to attend practices just like her older teammates.

"I feel like I earned my spot on the team and worked just as hard as everyone else," Dickey said. "Age shouldn't matter."

Leah Stupeck, returning as dance coach for the eighth year, quickly adapted to the underclassmen majority, leading the group to several victories in recent competitions. She now co-coaches varsity and junior varsity with new addition Ashlie Manor.

The two had known each other since childhood, attending the same dance studios and even the same college at Ball State University. The friends share a similar dance philosophy and hold degrees in Dance Performance.

"This has added a lot to our plates, but it is something we have (wanted) to do and feel it is best for the future of the program," Stupeck said.

Because of the same coaches, varsity and junior varsity became closer, inside and outside of their studio. At competitions, the girls were more involved with each other, sharing dressing rooms and merging warm up sessions.

The two teams also hold practices on Fridays together, unlike past years where only varsity would meet that day. The dancers practice during and after school five days a week to polish and clean their routines.

At varsity's most recent competition, the girls won first in jazz and pom, also attaining the Overall High Score award in each category.

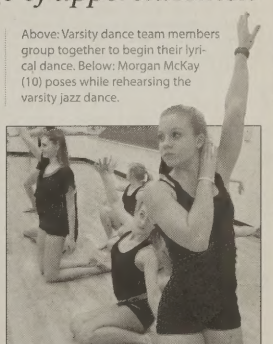
"We had our best performances yet, and our placings reflected that," Franklin said.

Even though local teams have proven to be tough competitors, the biggest enemy this season will be themselves.

"After coaching for many years, I have learned that we cannot control the judges' opinions," Stupeck said. "We can only make our teams the best they can be every year."

Last year at IHSDTA State Finals, varsity had not won a State title in 11 years, and since that moment, the team's goal had been to come home a State champ. Through determination and persistence, the girls hope to achieve all their dreams and more.

"I hope to look back at this year and be able to say that I danced to the best of my ability and made myself and the team proud," Franklin said.



Above: Varsity dance team members group together to begin their lyrical dance. Below: Morgan McKay (10) poses while rehearsing the varsity jazz dance.

Annual awards shows excite local 'film fanatics'

Student movie, television enthusiasts make predictions, anticipate strong awards season

By Colby Shoup
Writer

Among the jocks and the nerds lives a lesser known group of students: those who live and breathe movies. These film fanatics follow films like most students their age follow sports, and with the airing of the Golden Globes, a televised awards show that aired on Jan. 13, the preseason is finally over.

Since they were first held in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in 1947, the Golden Globe Awards, held by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, have become a popular awards ceremony among die hard movie fans everywhere.

This year's Golden Globe Awards were hosted by comedy icons and Saturday Night Live alumni Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. The ceremony was a big hit with viewers everywhere, including movie fanatic Matt Hamilton (10).

"Tina Fey and Amy Poehler gave off a much better vibe than last year's host, Ricky Gervais. The jokes were still wonderfully mean but not aggressive," Hamilton said.

For movie afficionados Mohammad Abassi (11) and Hamilton, the Golden Globes were simply the first game of the season. They aren't even close to being done yet.

The Oscars will air at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24 on ABC, and movie fans are already filled with anticipation for the big night.

"I feel as though in previous years there wasn't much competition between the movies, but in years like this past year when the movies were really good, it will be interesting to see who comes out on top," Abassi said.

After an exciting Golden Globes, Abassi, Hamilton and film fanatics everywhere eagerly await the Oscars. The Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards are often seen as predictors for what movies will take home the Oscar.

"Lincoln" was considered the favorite prior to the Golden Globes and SAG Awards where "Argo" took home the big prize. While "Argo" is now seen as a serious contender for Best Picture at the Oscars, movie fans everywhere are still rearing from the snub of its director, Ben Affleck.

"I think Ben Affleck mistakenly got left out of the Best Director category for 'Argo,'" radio and TV teacher Adam Schenkel said. "That movie was phenomenal, and he did a masterful job directing."

To some students, the Golden Globes and Oscars are on the same level as the Super Bowl, making it difficult to relate to their peers.

"Most of the nominees and winners at awards shows, especially the Oscars, aren't comedies or action films; they're mainly serious dramas, a genre not very popular with most teens," Hamilton said.

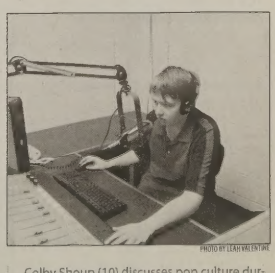


PHOTO BY LEAH VALENTINE

Colby Shoup (10) discusses pop culture during his Friday afternoon radio show. Shoup records his show weekly with classmate Matt Hamilton (10).

Seniors eager to begin life after high school as graduation quickly approaches

I remember my first day of high school more vividly than I'd like to. I was the definition of a stereotypical freshman: short, too eager to learn and terrified of everything. My backpack was twice as big as I was, filled to the breaking point with sharpened pencils, labeled folders and notebooks, binders, organizers and emergency contacts. Despite my two highlighted maps, I got lost to every class. I asked upperclassmen for directions and was surprised to find myself in the band hallway when I'd asked them to steer me toward Spanish II. I literally jogged to lunch from my freshman seminar class and raved over all the options. My new shirt matched the rubber bands on my braces, and my school-appropriate shorts were exactly fingertip length.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

I'm halfway through my senior year now, four months from graduation, and I couldn't feel farther away from that version of myself now. Well, I'm still short–that growth spurt that I've been waiting twelve years for never did come. However, I've come to terms with the fact that being five feet tall does not make me any less of a person, at least in spirit. On the bright side, I no longer need a map to navigate the hallways. I never feel the urge to sprint to lunch anymore; sometime during sophomore year, I realized that having eight lunch lines isn't quite as exciting when none of them ever serve anything good. My braces are gone, and my backpack is about ten pounds lighter. Overall, I'd say it was a positive change. I blossomed like a flower in the school greenhouse we're not allowed to enter.

High school, however, has not gone through as dramatic a change. Every day I walk through the same hallways to the same classrooms and listen to the same conversations and see the same things that have defined high school for years. We're all tired in the morning, we all pretend that we didn't study as much as we actually did, everyone hates advisory. No one likes the cafeteria food. Awkward couples hold hands and hug for ridiculous amounts of time in the hallway. Teenage boys overuse the word "swag" and teenage girls wear yoga pants with Uggs.

I'm sure it's always been like this, but this is the first year that I find it really exhausting. There's a reason seniors do whatever it takes to leave early –high school gets old fast. We're getting accepted by colleges and trying to decide which part of campus is the best place to engage in good, clean fun. We're waiting in limbo, done with high school but not able to leave.

While I'm waiting for high school to end and my future to begin, I waste time. It's amazing how much more time you have on your hands when you stop caring about school. I take naps and watch TV shows that I don't even like and eat out of boredom. When I'm feeling ambitious, I go to the YMCA. I download useless apps onto my iPad and spend hours trying to beat my high score on Bejeweled Blitz and checking the weather. I get on Twitter and Facebook every five to 10 minutes–you never know when someone is going to say something really witty. Yesterday, I spent an hour trying to make an origami sheep (Hint: Never try this). Sometimes, I just lie on the floor of my room and self-reflect; I wonder why I never took basket-weaving or joined the track team or took an impromptu day trip to Chicago after faking a deathly illness, where I sang on a float in a parade and narrowly avoided being caught by my parents and an angry principal.

> "There's a reason seniors do whatever it takes to leave early –high school gets old fast. We're getting accepted by colleges and trying to decide which part of campus is the best place to engage in good, clean fun. We're waiting in limbo, done with high school but not able to leave."
>
> **DANI CASTONZO**

It doesn't take me a long time to remember why. I can't weave baskets. I hate running. And that fantasy is just the product of seeing "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" one too many times.

What I'm saying is this: it's going to be a rough second semester. But we can make it. There's still spring break and senior activities day (which may or may not include a bouncy house) to look forward to, which is almost exciting. And in four months we'll graduate and go to college, and we won't remember what it's like to sit around waiting for the rest of our lives to start.

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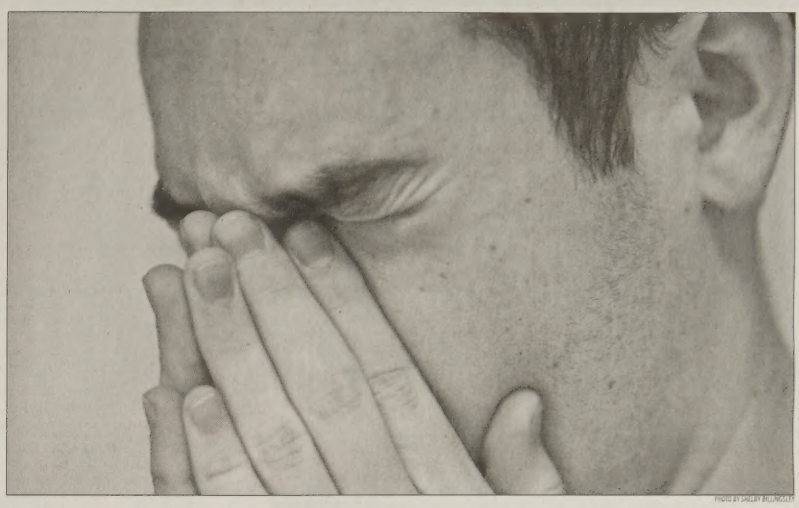


PHOTO BY SARLEY BRUNDAGE

Virus seemingly unavoidable as illness spreads through student body

BY KATE TROUTMAN
Writer

This season, thousands of people have already been infected by the flu and thousands more are estimated to be infected in the remainder of the flu season lasting until April. Although a flu outbreak is not unusual for the winter months, it has been awhile since an outbreak of this magnitude has occurred. This rampant flu has brought inconvenience for everyone, whether it be missing school and having to make up homework and tests or taking a test with a symphony of coughers.

The primary symptoms of the flu include a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, a severe headache, a severe cough and body aches. Have a teacher sign a pass and walk to the nurse if any of these symptoms are present. The flu can be fatal, so do not disregard these symptoms.

"A month and a half ago, Monday morning, at 3 a.m., I woke up freezing, but I shrugged it off and went back to bed. When I woke up for school, I had a headache, my throat was sore, but I decided to go to school," flu victim Matt Steiner (12) said. "I stayed for two periods until I felt so awful I went to the nurse. Then, I stayed home and watched reruns of the 'Andy Griffith Show.'"

With flu season at a peak, students and staff need to take preventive measures to avoid being infected with this potentially fatal virus. The nurses at Homestead have seen many cases of the flu in their years of experience and know how to inhibit the spread of the virus.

"Don't share drinks, utensils or plates," nurse Beth Quigley said. "Also, wash hands, sleep eight hours a night and drink 64 ounces of water every day."

> "I have had to avoid people because I don't want to associate with a contagious person. I've also had to carry several sanitizing products with me on a daily basis to keep a germ-free environment."
>
> **HANITA EPSTEIN (12)**
> *Concerned Student*

Though not absolutely effective, these healthy measures will decrease chances of contracting the flu.

Many students are afraid of contracting the flu and having to miss school.

"I have had to avoid people because I don't want to associate with a contagious person. I've also had to carry several sanitizing products with me on a daily basis to keep a germ-free environment," concerned student Hanita Epstein (12) said.

For Epstein, being sick holds too high a price. With only 10 excused absence days and senior skip days coming up, Epstein said that she does not have time to waste.

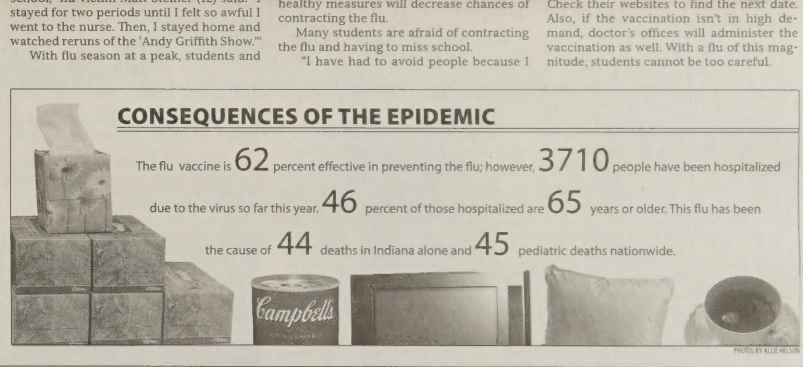
"I can't get the flu because I have places to go and people to see. Plus, I can't miss a day of AP Statistics," Epstein said.

Even though the flu already has an overwhelming presence, according to Quigley, it is never too late to get vaccinated.

The flu vaccine takes two weeks before the immunization can protect at a high level.

This year, the flu vaccine works well to prevent the flu. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that around 60% of people who received the flu vaccination are not contracting the flu. In previous years, only 50% of people who received the flu vaccination did not contract the flu.

Local drug stores, like Walgreens, have days when they administer the flu vaccine. Check their websites to find the next date. Also, if the vaccination isn't in high demand, doctor's offices will administer the vaccination as well. With a flu of this magnitude, students cannot be too careful.



PHOTOS BY ALLIE NELSON

CONSEQUENCES OF THE EPIDEMIC

The flu vaccine is 62 percent effective in preventing the flu; however, 3710 people have been hospitalized due to the virus so far this year. 46 percent of those hospitalized are 65 years or older. This flu has been the cause of 44 deaths in Indiana alone and 45 pediatric deaths nationwide.

'Pennies for Patients' preparation begins

Student government organizes charity event for cancer patients

BY MEGAN CATER
Writer

Every penny truly does count in this year's student government fundraiser "Pennies for Patients" with all proceeds going to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). This month, students will compete with other fifth period classes to raise money to support this important cause.

In previous years, student government has conducted fundraisers supporting a variety of causes, from the "Canstruction" can drive to the Black Feet Native American Reservations in North Dakota. Last year, student government hosted a "Pink Out" to support the breast cancer cause. However, this year, members decided helping out local patients, including young children, would be a good opportunity to give back to the community.

Beginning Feb 11 and lasting until Feb 22, students are asked to participate by bringing spare change, paper money or checks. To encourage participation, a friendly competition between fifth period classes will take place.

"Every year student government likes to support an outside organization, and this year, the group decided 'Pennies for Patients' would be a good program to support," Stephanie Wiley, student government adviser said.

Pennies add positive amounts to the class total. However, nickels, dimes, quarters, paper money and checks are negative amounts. In order to be the winning class, students can place silver coins, cash and checks in the jars of teachers other than their fifth period teacher. The goal is to deduct other classes' total amount by placing negative money in their jars.

"Pennies add points, everything else deducts. The fifth period class with the most points will win a pizza party," Anjali Raju (10), student government member, said.

LLS is the world's largest voluntary health organization that is specifically dedicated to funding blood cancer research, providing education and, most importantly, supporting patients through their treatment and recovery. Money raised goes to local cancer patients.

Leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma are cured through LLS. Originating in the bone marrow or lymphatic tissues, these cancers interfere with the production of the healthy blood cells. Different types of leukemia are the most common form of cancer in children younger than 18, and cause more deaths than any other cancer among children and young adults under 20.

Patients with these blood cancers receive free information and support from LLS. Last year alone, over 37,000 patients received Patient Financial Aid from LLS, totaling over $5.5 million. The money raised from "Pennies for Patients" goes to any expenses local patients and their families need. Due, in part, to the innovative research funded by LLS, survival rates for blood cancer patients have as much as quadrupled since 1949.

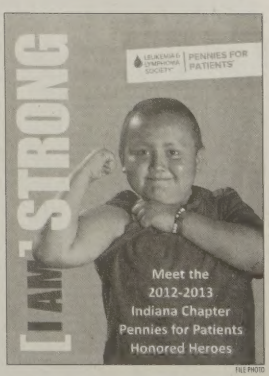
For some patients, multiple rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, stem cell transplantation and blood transfusions are necessary. As expected, these treatments are not cheap. Also, not all of the treatments may be covered by insurance. Last year, nearly $38 million was awarded through the LLS Co-Pay Assistance Program.

"The money can go to so many different things," Wiley said. "Hotel expenses for a patient's family, gas to get to and from treatments, partial costs of treatments and so much more."

Students are embracing the opportunity to help out in the local community.

"It's important because it's serving our community, and these people rely on their (LLS) services to get places and for encouragement," Abbi Stephens (11), student government member said. "We hope to do the same to give back to the community by simply giving pocket change that we take for granted."

For more information on the mission of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, go to www.lls.org.



FILE PHOTO

'Pennies for Patients' pamphlet recognizes cancer survivors who received financial aid from the organization. Money donated pays for treatments and other expenses.

gymnasts team faces adversity, 6

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Team captures third-consecutive NHC title

Young underclassmen help lead team to victory, preparation for sectionals begins

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Above: Caroline Weigand (11) trains for the 100 yard breast stroke. Weigand placed first in conference in this event.

BY HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

Both the girls and boys' swim and dive teams came out as conference champions yet again, dominating in nearly every event.

After physically draining and time consuming practices all week before Conference, the teams' fate came down to their ability to push through the exhaustion and perform out of pure dedication.

Both teams began the meet with a clear goal of winning just as they have done for the past 15 years. On the girls' team, Bailey Pressey (12), Caroline Weigand (11), Reagan Cook (11) and Becca Bowman (12) participated in the first medley relay that resulted in a first place head start.

From there, the swimmers continued to accumulate high scores in the 200 individual medley, 100 butterfly, and other events. Cook performed especially well in her individual events, beating her own conference record in the 200 individual medley.

Further into the meet, the team struggled to overcome rival Carroll in the 200 freestyle relay and placed second. Overall, the girls fell short in a few races and discovered several changes they need to make, but more importantly, they had a successful meet and were entirely satisfied with their victory.

Likewise, the boys' team was triumphant in the conference meet, but its struggle to come out on top was more evident.

"Our biggest competition was Carroll High School, and they came tapered and rested for the meet. We weren't," Cody Craig (12) said. "We had been doing double practices every day that week, and we were exhausted."

Unfortunately, the team's demanding practice schedule the week prior set it up for weak and unstable relay races.

"We got second place in all of our relays, which I think is pathetic because the previous years I was on the relays, and we made sure we never lost," Craig said.

Regardless of the disappointment, there were enough individual wins to ensure a strong chance at the conference champion title. First place finishers included: Cameron Frank (9) in the 500-yard freestyle, Kevin Frebel (9) in the diving portion, Conner Whitaker (10) in the 100-yard fly, Seth Johnson (11) in the 100-yard backstroke and Craig in the 50-yard freestyle.

With the regular season and the conference meet completed, Sectionals and State are the sole remaining competitions.

The boys' team plans to win Sectionals on Feb. 16 at South Side and qualify as many athletes as possible for State the following weekend. The girls' team won Sectionals and will send many swimmers to the state meet on Feb. 9.

"We need to work smarter," Craig said.

With the majority of the boys' and girls' teams being underclassmen, they have been working to fill the void and mature as individuals and as a team.

"Our goal was to try and push the young ones to make their own decisions and suggest ideas without being afraid of us saying no."

From two committed teams came a shot at victory at sectionals and conceivably a chance at state.

"In our minds we haven't begun seeing success yet," Craig said.

▶ BASKETBALL CONTINUED FROM 1

to lead the Spartans, and Caleb Swanigan (9) had 13 points.

To onlookers in the crowd, the intense game was heating up, giving hope a miracle might happen.

Once the winning three-pointer was hit, the fans felt compelled to storm the court, out of pure excitement.

"It was complete instinct to run on the court in celebration. My adrenaline was rushing," Elijah Zavala (12), student section member, said.

The enthusiasm of the student section powers the players on while at home, giving them the push they need to win the game.

"That was one of the greatest basketball experiences I have ever had," Trevor Osborn (12). "It was a great game to have as a senior on the team. I doubt another game like this will occur anytime soon."

The last few games the gym has been packed with fans, and Homestead basketball has been the talk of the town.

Fans who have no family ties to the players even came out to watch the game. The Columbia City game was so packed, students and fans had to be turned down at the door, so as to avoid a fire hazard.

The environment of the sold out game was unforgettable.

After an unbelievable game a few nights before, the team carried this momentum to another home matchup, this time against Wayne, and the Spartans emerged victorious yet again.

"It was rough. We weren't clicking like we normally do and it was tough to put them away," Gamble said.

Even though the game was close, the team picked it up and sent Wayne home empty handed.

The streak continued when the Spartans defeated Dekalb at home on Friday night.

The game started off back and forth, but by the fourth quarter Homestead shut them down and strode to a definitive 54-40 victory. Gamble had 20 points and Swanigan added 9 points.

"It was a good win for us because it moved us to 5 and 0 in conference play," Osborn said.

The atmosphere of a packed student section returned for the DeKalb game. Once Homestead took their lead, the famous cheer of "I believe that we just won" swarmed through the crowd.

Proud of their team, the students cheered the players on to yet another victory.

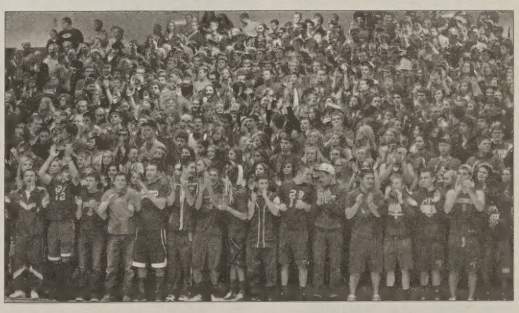
High school teams walk into the Homestead gymnasium hopeful but continue to leave defeated.

These victories prove the team's skills while moving forward in the conference. The team aspires to continue its winning streak and advance far into the postseason.

"(In order to continue the winning streak), we need to keep playing together, playing hard and playing one game at a time," Osborn said.

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Above: Seth Coate (12) fights for the tip off in anticipation of the first possession. Below: Student section unites in cheers in response to a shot made by Nick Gamble (12). Estimates of the size of the student section range from 300-400 students.



"That was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. It was a great game to have as a senior on the team. I doubt another game like this will occur anytime soon."

TREVOR OSBORN (12)
Varsity Guard

BOYS' TRACK: SETS SIGHTS ON REACHING STATE

Team goes into new season with high expectations of reaching state title

The boys' track team will start a new season this month, and after the success at Sectionals last year, the Spartans will have high expectations going in.

"As a team, our goals remain the same-- to take the conference title from Carroll, to be Sectionals champs again and to do well at the regional, and possibly state, meet," Preston Sterling (11), distance runner, said.

Despite graduating key runners, such as Kyle Lake ('12), the team expects to maintain the level of prestige established last season.

Sprinters, throwers, jumpers and distance runners will all have to work their hardest in order to reach the goals that they hope to achieve.

▶10.8

the time, in seconds, in which Trevor Stanley (12) can run the 100 meter hurdles

The team's main competition this year will be Carroll High School, and to beat it, the runners will have to train like they want to perform.

"With hard work and persistence we can achieve the physical and mental abilities that we need to reach our goals. We have a great team returning and a very talented freshman class coming in," Head Coach Jeff Livensparger said.

Livensparger will lead the boys' team again this year.

With key returning athletes such as Trevor Stanley (12), Sterling and John Lark (10), the team can boast a group of athletes with diverse skill sets.

To take the Sectional and Conference titles this year would be a great achievement and would only result from unsurpassed performances in the track and field events.

"We will have to improve every day in practice. Then, when the meets come we will have to give all the effort we have to come out on top," Lark, a sprinter, said.

-Ethan Yde

GIRLS' TRACK: BEGINS SEASON CONDITIONING

Ari Nelson (12) returns, expects to lead team in long jump, 100 meter dash

With last year's success in the postseason, the girls' track team is looking forward to another successful year. Last year, the team finished second at Sectionals and had multiple regional qualifiers on the team.

The team has just begun conditioning for the upcoming season, and players from last year are already sizing up the new team. Top returning players include Ari Nelson (12) in sprinting events, Mariah Jordan (12) in distance events and Nicole Schneider (12) in throwing events.

"We don't have as much talent from the beginning as we usually do, but I feel like a lot of girls will step up and show their talent this year," Nelson said. "I'm excited to see who is ready to work hard." Last year, Nelson individually qualified for the state meet in four different track and field events.

Success of the athletes on the team in every event is an important goal that the team would like to achieve this season. In order to achieve this goal, the team will continue conditioning but will soon begin specialized training for the athletes in each event.

"Through hard work, dedication and persistence, we hope to make the best of this upcoming season," Schneider said.

"Through hard work, dedication and persistence, we hope to make the best of this upcoming season."

NICOLE SCHNEIDER (12)
Varsity Thrower

At this point in the season, many members of the team are taking things one step at a time and focusing on getting ready for the mandatory practices beginning on Feb. 14.

"For now, we're working hard and hoping that the success of this season will surpass that of last year's," Schneider said.

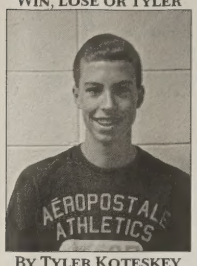
-Jessica Tebben

Famous athletes' blunders should not take over media

I'm sure you have heard the news by now, so it isn't really "breaking," but Manti Te'o, the star Notre Dame linebacker, went from being a star Heisman candidate to a scrutinized subject of the entire social media and sports media.

It was just a normal day. I came home from track practice and turned on ESPN. It was at that point that I saw on the sidebar for Sportscenter the headline: "DEVELOPING STORY: Manti Te'o's Girlfriend Never Existed." They could have said that it was a hoax, but the wording just blew my mind. How could someone just not exist?

It was the emotional tale that propelled Te'o's breakout season, the story of his girlfriend, a leukemia victim who died in a car collision with a drunk driver. This sentence may be the point in the column where I cling to Te'o's side and defend his integrity calling him the victim, but that is not the case. In fact, as I was pondering this bizarre situation, I realized that I didn't feel strongly either way.



WIN, LOSE OR TYLER

BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Sports Editor

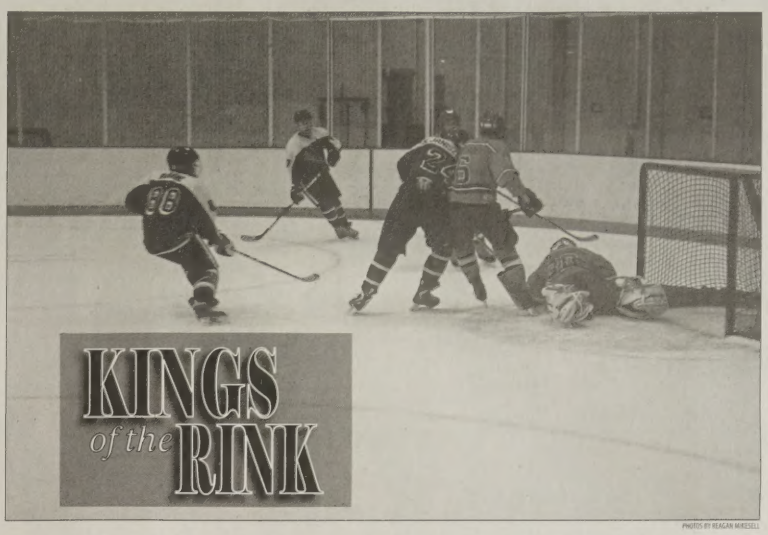
At the end of the day, Te'o is still a NFL-bound linebacker, and sports as we know it remain relatively unaffected. The worst case scenario is that Te'o is no longer respected and eHarmony loses a few members. Nevertheless, the story captivated shocked audiences across the country, especially Notre Dame Fans. This entire hoax all began because one man, named Ronaiah Tuiasosopo, lied about his identity to Te'o online.

Speaking of lying, we go to our next devastated and embarrassed sports figure: Lance Armstrong. This emotional story features a cancer victim who at one time had a 40 % chance of survival, but returned to cycling and won the Tour de France title seven years in a row. However, just last week, in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Armstrong admitted that he used EPOs, blood doping and cortisone during his career to enhance his cycling ability. Trying to create this "mythic perfect story," he used the performance-enhancing substances but repeatedly denied all allegations of his doping.

I did not watch Armstrong's seven Tour de France wins, as impressive as they were. For me, all I knew was Armstrong's reputation. As a kid, I would practice riding my bike with no hands so that I could hold up seven fingers at once as Armstrong famously did in his final Tour de France victory. Yet, my knowledge of him was enhanced most by his contributions to Livestrong and the popular yellow bracelet that I wore often. Now, people are reportedly crossing off the "v" on the bracelet to make it more accurate to Armstrong himself.

The fundamental aspect of the Manti Te'o Girlfriend Hoax and Armstrong's confession is confusion: a girlfriend that never existed and a cycling champion who repeatedly denied accusations for years but then suddenly admitted to them. Though both athletes have now testified to their situations through televised interviews, viewers still questions their legitimacy. Some believe Te'o participated in the hoax to boost his popularity. Others believe Armstrong admitted his role in doping solely to return to a sport from which he has been banned.

What these two disgraced athletes show us is the complexity and distorted nature of sports news today. Sports news has become more about the failures of athletes rather than their accomplishments, and it shouldn't be. Certainly, Armstrong should not have succumbed to a culture of cycling cheaters, nor should Te'o have developed a relationship online with a girl he didn't know, but their accomplishments remain unmatched. Armstrong's transformation from an often-fatal disease into a dominant cycling star remains one of the most impressive comebacks in recent sports history. Te'o's emotional rise to a Heisman finalist continues to impress.



PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Remarkable year reflects team's hardworking individuals

BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Sports Editor

The hockey team has continued its impressive season with a record of 25 wins, 7 losses and 2 ties, while competing against some of the toughest teams in the state.

On Jan. 23, the team cruised to a 7-0 victory over the Northrop Bruins. One week prior, the team annihilated the Summit City Panthers by a score of 8-2, aided by a hat trick by Jay Conkling (11).

"I feel like the team has consistently played at a very high level," Max Dvorak (12) said. "We've maintained our first place spot in the Fort Wayne league, and our record in out-of-league games has been very strong as well."

Last weekend, the team had a prized opportunity to prove its ability against several of the top teams in the state at a high-profile tournament in Fishers. The Spartans finished with a 3-1 record on the weekend, losing only to Brebeuf Jesuit. The team emerged victorious over Columbus and overcame a 2-0 deficit to defeat the South Stars.

"First and foremost, our biggest strength is our goaltending," Landon Rody (12) said. "We have two of the best goalies in the state in Taylor 'Buff' Amborn (11) and Russell Smascz (12)."

Rody also emphasized the ability of their defense as well as their top line. Led by top scorers, Paul Lee (12), Rody and Robbie Clay (12), the team's top line has been impressive and has been the catalyst for blowouts such as the 7-0 thrashing of Northrop on Wednesday.

"I believe we have the best offense, defense and goaltending in the league, and we try to prove that every Wednesday night," Conkling said.

Despite the phenomenal senior leadership on the team, several juniors have stepped up to boost the team's potential including Conkling, Amborn and Elliot Sweazey (11).

Most of the team's games against area opponents are played at the Lutheran Health SportsCenter Canlan Ice Rink. However, they have travelled to several prestigious tournaments around the Indianapolis area as well. The toughest competition they have faced at these tournaments was Carmel Gold, a team that has beaten the Spartans twice.

Another accomplishment of this season has been defeating rival Carroll three times. The team has beat the Chargers in dominant fashion by scores of 9-3, 5-4, and 5-2. The team will face them once again on Jan. 30.

With a few games remaining in the regular season, the team has begun to prepare for the postseason and realize its potential.

"I'd say we can go as far as we want to," Conkling said. "We can win the city and state championships if we play our best hockey."

The team has picked an ideal time to play their best hockey. If they can continue their winning streak, they will go into the postseason with incredible momentum.

For the players, it's not about winning but a love of the sport.

"Once you lace up those skates, your problems go away. It's all about your teammates now. Nothing else runs through your mind except the game."

LANDON RODY (12)
Forward

"Once you lace up those skates, your problems go away. Nothing else runs through your mind except the game," Rody said.

The team's success so far this season and dominance in city play has proven its ability and potential. With its present momentum, the team is poised for a successful postseason to cap off its success in the regular season.

Top: Elliot Sweazy (11) and Taylor Amborn (11) block a goal for their team, which has made a record of 25 wins this season. Middle: Max Dvorak (12) stands ready to score. Bottom: Robbie Clay (12) faces off with a Carroll hockey player.

SIGNING DAY

Senior athletes confirm participation in collegiate athletics

Surrounded by their friends and family, seven senior athletes committed to compete at their selected schools next year: Seth Coate, University of Saint Francis; Grayson Bastin, Valparaiso University; Nolan McMahon, University of Saint Francis; Isaac Griffith, Indiana University; Kelsey Wendlandt, Ball State University; Madison Kloster, University of Eastern Michigan and Ariane Nelson, Indiana University. The athletes signed Feb. 6, in the community room. The students look forward to continuing their athletic career at the colleges and universities of their choice.

PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

Girls tumble toward a spot in the state finals

Despite junior injuries, girls remain optimistic for future successes in the postseason

BY JESSICA TEBBEN
Writer

The gymnastics team had proven itself, achieving a record of 5-1 despite a number of injuries.

The 16th-ranked team in the state now boasts a 5-1 record (excluding invitationals) with its only loss coming against DeKalb by 3 points. It recently traveled to the Chesterton Invitational over the weekend against several tough teams from across Northern Indiana. In a close scoring bout, the team finished in 5th place.

Compared to last season's inconsistent wins, the gymnastics team had shown improvement thus far in this year's season. Placing seventh at the state meet last year, the team is working hard to ensure that it will place higher this year.

However, it has to place high in both the sectional meet and the regional meet in order to make it to the state competition.

While placing high in the state meet is very important to the athletes, another important goal that the girls are striving for is to beat their highest score from last year. So far this season, the team's highest score was 101.

Compared to the highest score from last year, 107, the goal seems to be reachable for the team, giving it statistical incentive to improve.

However, in order for the team to ensure that these goals are reached, it continues to work hard and focus on the postseason. The members of the team participate in meets as much as three times a week, in addition to their rigorous practice schedule.

Another way that they gain experience is through participation in invitationals, which put them in an environment similar to those of the postseason and prepare them on their journey to the state meet.

"Winning State will be difficult now because of our losses," Head Coach Ryan Gorndt said. "Before it was definitely possible, but that's not our focus now. All we hope to do is get our team to State once again."

Compared to last year, the team made many improvements that had helped it to prepare for State more efficiently.

The realities that the team faced last year at the state meet had helped the team gain a more mature skill set going into the postseason this year.

"We are just focusing on the little details of our routines which will hopefully eventually put us over the top," Taylor Ross (10) said.

Team members get together for a group huddle before a match. The gymnasts have four more competitions before the Sectionals meet at Concordia, three of which will be hosted at the school. Hoping to advance to State, the girls will focus on their scores.

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

This season, the team had been faced with the obstacle of injuries as well as the looming graduation of four seniors on the team. Morgan Stinson (11) and Morgan Hardwick (11) are unable to compete at the moment due to knee injuries.

While Stinson will not be able to compete for the remainder of the season, the healing time of Hardwick's injury is unknown. The new freshmen on this year's team have had to step up due to the complications of the year and the pressures to follow in the graduating senior's footsteps.

"We have strong underclassmen who can step up and keep Homestead going strong," Madison Moore (10) said.

The team still has four meets before it goes to Sectionals on March 2 at Concordia. The girls are also participating in two invitationals, including the Marion Invitational and the Gymnastics Invitational held at Homestead. These opportunities will help the team improve before it begins the postseason in March.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

A whole NEW SONG and DANCE

Community members congregate to celebrate night of live music

By Alison Mansfield and Kate Troutman
Feature Editor and Writer

Every year, students, teachers and families gather together to watch show choir members showcase their exquisite musical talent. An old tradition gave way to new changes as the addition of a dessert bar, a new venue, live auctions and middle school performers made this year's Cabaret Night better than ever.

Fresh Faces

New faces graced a new stage at Cabaret Night, as middle school students gave their debut performance at the Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, performing alonside the high school choirs for the first time.

"I loved performing at the (Arts Center); their stage was very nice," Mason Barkes, Woodside seventh grader said. "It was very fun and scary performing in front of all those people."

The show choir kicked off its performance with a compilation of 40s-era music, chosen to exemplify the experiences of Americans during World War II. The act changed tempo, however, as the choir concluded its show with popular modern music. The songs performed by the middle school show choir included "Jump, Jive and Wail," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "This is The Army, Mr. Jones," "What'll I Do," "Party Rock Anthem," "We Will Rock You" and "I Love Rock and Roll."

"(My favorite song in our act) was probably 'I Love Rock and Roll,'" Tyler Kuntz, Woodside seventh grader said. "That song is so upbeat."

However, members of the middle school show choir weren't the only ones feeling the beat.

"(My favorite part of the middle school performance) was when the boys danced to 'Everyday I'm Shufflin,'" Will Northquist (12) said. "I couldn't help but dance too."

With time period-themed costumes and a stellar stage design, the middle school show choir left a lasting impression.

"(If I could describe the middle school performance) in one word, it would be optimism," Northquist said. "It's a comfort to know that the future for Homestead show choirs and Cabaret Nights is bright."

Scenery Switch

This year, Cabaret Night brought a change in scenery. Typically, the show choir holds Cabaret Night in Homestead's cafeteria and auditorium. This year, the Cabaret Night fundraiser was held at the Saint Francis Performing Arts Center (formally known as the Scottish Rite).

"We thought it would be nice to use the facility for our show choirs and to promote Saint Francis' performing arts program at the same time," Cabaret Night coordinator Lisa Yde said.

A few members of the show choir took part in the production of "The Will Roger's Follies" in the fall at the Saint Francis venue, so they were excited to be back at the familiar location.

"I loved having Cabaret Night at the Scottish Rite. I was in 'The Will Roger's Follies' earlier in the fall, so it was really great to be able to perform on that stage again," Class Royale member Jake Peters (12) said.

The initial feedback was positive for the change in location. The grand theater was able to hold the large crowd of art patrons who gathered to see the middle school show choir Class Act, the all-girls show choir Elite and the male and female show choir Class Royale.

The future location of Cabaret Night is unknown. Saint Francis allowed the event to be held at its facility at no charge this year, so the future venue for the event depends on the busy schedule and the price of the Arts Center.

"This year's event was different than the past four or five Cabaret Nights, but I think the changes affected people postively."

-CYNTHIA STOCK

Sound Check

While $10 tickets brought in money for the show choir program, both silent and live auctions generated a significant amount of money as well.

"The silent and live auctions help defray the cost of all show choir expenses," Class Royale member Sarah Yde (12) said.

These expenses range from scholarships for people who want to participate in the show choir program but are unable to pay for the costumes to other funds to help lower the cost for everyone involved in the program. Cabaret Night is the main fundraiser for the show choirs.

There was an array of items to bid on, running the gamut from a Homestead letter jacket to an electric guitar to a one-year family membership at the Jorgensen YMCA.

"I was excited when my mom won a bouncy house for my graduation party in the silent auction. I can enjoy it and know the money is going to the show choir program," Class Royale member Emily Muha (12) said.

A professional auctioneer spoke rapidly as he emceed the live auction. Among the items sold were a utility trailer, a website design session and a personal Homestead senior lot parking spot. The highest bidder received the items.

One bidder, after winning the utility trailer for $750, turned around and donated the trailer back to be re-auctioned to raise more money for the program.

After a long night of dozens of items being auctioned, all of the items featured in the two auctions generated a total of over $3,000.

Sweet Serenade

This year, Cabaret Night coordinators took advantage of their new, classy venue to host a stylish pre-performance meal. In lieu of a traditional dinner served in Homestead's cafeteria, audience members were directed to the basement of the concert hall to enjoy a dessert and beverage buffet.

Attendees were encouraged to sample chocolate éclairs, cinnamon-sugar churros, rich cheesecakes and cookies–all provided by the Saint Francis Performing Arts Center catering staff. Selections of coffee, tea, punch and hot cider were available as well.

"We wanted to create an atmosphere fit for an elegant, sophisticated evening," Cynthia Stock, Cabaret Night co-coordinator, said. "We did this with the food but also with the decorations we used."

Recycling materials from years prior, a team of parent volunteers draped the dining area in tulle and white lights. Glass vases, white tablecloths and delicate flowers garnished the tables as well. These familiar decorations as well as the new changes were well-received.

"This year's event was different than the past four or five Cabaret Nights, but I think the changes affected people positively," Stock said. "We've gotten great feedback about the dessert bar and decorations–we had a record number of people attend too."

This pre-show offering added a touch of elegance to the evening, providing the audience with a chance to enjoy both the atmosphere and each other.

Top: Members of Class Royale perform at a new location. Top Right: Soloist Sam Harness (12) sings in Class Royale. Left: Elite performs a ballad at Saturday's show. Right: Mary Wilson (10) sings as a soloist for the all-girl choir.

THE SPARTANA

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Legislators question national standards

Educators consider previous state-wide standards 'more academic than other states'

PHOTO BY JOE LAUGHLIN

Glenda Ritz, the new superintendent of public instruction, would not support a bill explicitly withdrawing the state from the CCSS program.

By Adam Swiatkowski
Writer

Though the National Governor's Association introduced Indiana to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010, there is already talk of Indiana's halting progress toward full implementation of the standards. CCSS have garnered some support among Indiana's legislators and teachers, yet there are still many opponents to the plan who intend to lead the way to the elimination of the new standards from Indiana.

"Indiana is in a tough spot because the Indiana standards were well-written and more academic than other states', which is why Indiana is rethinking the CCSS," Olivia Valencic-Miller, English teacher, said.

Unanimously adopted by the Indiana General Assembly, these standards were expected to provide a better understanding of what students in the United States should learn. They specify what is to be taught at each grade level in math, English and language arts, social studies and science.

State Superintendent Glenda Ritz has abstained from taking a public stance on CCSS but has said that she is currently opposed to withdrawing the state from the standards program.

"If there's a bill that's actually going to say, 'We don't have Common Core, and you go back to the standards that you have in Indiana,' I would not be in favor of that," Ritz told StateImpact in a February interview.

A recently proposed amendment to Senate Bill 193, however, would prevent the State Board of Education from committing to CCSS without first considering other alternatives intensively. This legislation would suspend the implementation of the standards, which is currently intended to reach completion by the 2014-15 school year.

The standards have accrued

▶ SEE 'STANDARDS,' PAGE 2

Students earn Scholastic Key awards

By Awbrei Vachon
Writer

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program has been recognizing 7th through 12th grade students' unique talents for the past 90 years, and this year was no exception.

According to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards' website, the goal of the program is to present students with the opportunity to release their creative art and literary pieces out into the world. By doing so, the program exposes each participant with the experience he will need to accommodate all the academic obstacles and accomplishments that have yet to come his way.

"(The program) allows student writers to receive public recognition and can possibly receive scholarships," AP English and Composition teacher Connie Christophersen said. "(This process) should make (students) realize the power of language; what they write can impact their audience."

Christophersen encouraged her students to review the program's requirements and to contribute an essay to the competition as an optional assignment for her class, which, for some students, was a decision well-made.

In order for students to win either a Gold Key, Silver Key or Honorable Mention, luminaries assess their art and writing for expressive individuality. Among Homestead's winners is double Gold Key recipient Scott Espich (12).

▶ SEE 'SCHOLASTIC KEY,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

District intensifies eligiblity requirements for honors classes

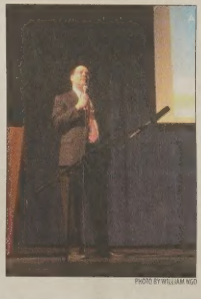

PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Philip Downs addressed a crowd of parents and teachers about new changes to the district's ALPHA program and policies for freshman honors classes enrollment. The presentation, which took place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 in the auditorium, was entitled "SACS Programs for Gifted Learners: A Continuum of Services."

The ALPHA program caters to the needs of students deemed "gifted and talented."

Downs said that even before he began working for SACS three years ago, he was impressed with the caliber of student that the program was producing.

"I do view the program as very successful. It is a big draw for students moving to the area," Downs said. "That being said, nothing is perfect and everything should be revisited from time to time."

Students considered to be gifted and talented are identified in elementary or middle school based on a series of quantitative tests.

Students who score in the 96th percentile on all three NWEA tests are identified for further testing. If a student scores in the 9th stanine, then he or she qualifies for ALPHA.

Currently the only ALPHA service offered to elementary school students is a self-contained program at Aboite.

The changes being proposed include an online version of the ability test that is administered to all second graders, formally identifying students as high ability in certain subjects and

▶ SEE 'SCHEDULING,' PAGE 2

Dr. Philip Downs discusses how scores on standardized tests will impact admission into classes.

Retrospect pursues new fundraising techniques

By Priscilla Lin
Writer

Battling in a war against reduced funding and economic uncertainty, this year's Retrospect yearbook staff has found itself struggling to reach the fundraising and production goals met in years past.

According to Leslie Eckler, the current publications teacher, the yearbook's sudden struggle can be attributed to two main sources: a shrinking staff and a withered economy. This year's staff is substantially smaller than those of previous years, causing the administration to disregard prerequisite requirements in order to fill the single class period.

"With fewer staff members available to contribute to satisfying all the publication elements, there is a greater burden to produce at the same level and volume," Eckler said. "Our yearbook teams are not producing at the same levels as we have in the past."

Along with yearbook teams, parents and students are also functioning with less fervor than in previous years. So far, this year's sales have reported that only 1,400 students, less than two-thirds of the student body, purchased a

▶ SEE 'RETROSPECT,' PAGE 2

KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE

For those people interested in supporting the Retrospect, a new system for donations has been established. Parents or businesses may make donations to any of the sponsorship levels or purchase a business ad. Contact the publications department at 260-431-2261 with any questions.

LEVEL	NAME	COST
Bronze	Pretty Pennies	$25
Silver	True Blue	$100
Gold	Bold Gold	$175
Platinum	Super Spartans	$250

BRIEFS

MORP DANCE
In order to enter the MORP dance tomorrow night, all students must wear the MORP t-shirt with no alterations made to the shirt. Students must also have their student ID in order to enter the dance.

PARENT SOCIAL MEDIA
A parent night on social media will be held this evening at 6 p.m. in the Haverhill cafeteria. This parent-only event will involve current research on ways to keep students safe on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

STANDARDIZED TESTS
Students should prepare for the spring session of standardized tests now. The next SAT testing date is May 4. Register before April 5 to avoid the late fee. The upcoming ACT test date is April 13. Sign up before March 8 for regular registration charge.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Due to the recent school cancellations, the last day of school will be postponed until May 31.

Six seniors receive recognition as National Merit Finalists

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

Out of the approximately 1.5 million students who take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), 15,000 of the highest scoring students are singled out as National Merit Finalists. This year those Finalists included six Homestead students: Max Dvorak (12), Kevin Kusisto (12), Weilin Liao (12), Alison Mansfield (12), Emily Muha (12) and Danielle Wildrick (12).

All students at Homestead take the PSAT/NMSQT during their sophomore and junior years; however, only juniors are put into consideration for National Merit awards. In September of their senior year, students will be notified if they are among the 16,000 highest scorers and are recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. Those Semifinalists have the opportunity to become Finalists.

"The main things they look at are your SAT scores," Dvorak said. "If your SAT scores are similar to your PSAT scores, you'll most likely be a finalist."

In addition to the test scores, students had to fill out a supplementary application.

"(Guidance counselor) Amy Hamilton gave us nomination packets. There was an online application with an essay and resume with extracurriculars, work and community service experiences, a transcript and a letter of recommendation from your guidance counselor," Muha said.

The honor of being a Finalist

▶ SEE 'SCHOLARS,' PAGE 2

> "The main opportunity for Finalists is the possibility of receiving large scholarships for different universities."
>
> **MAX DVORAK**
> *National Merit Finalist*

▶ SCHOLARS CONTINUED FROM 1

will be given to 15,000 of the Semifinalists, and students become eligible for scholarship money.

"The PSAT itself doesn't give out very large grants of money. They give $2,500 to about half of the finalists," Dvorak said. "The main opportunity for Finalists is the possibility of receiving large scholarships for different universities."

In a time of uncertainty about college and worry about expenses, any scholarship opportunity helps.

"It's really cool to get letters saying, 'We'll give you lots of money if you list us as your first choice (with the National Merit Foundation),'" Muha said. "Some schools offer full rides while others don't offer as much. Some only offer a couple thousand, but a couple thousand always helps."

11 students were announced as National Merit Semi-Finalists

Unfortunately for Muha and Dvorak as they wait for acceptance letters, the schools offering full rides aren't the schools they want to attend.

"Some schools will give you a full ride, no questions asked," Dvorak said. "None of the schools I'm interested in offer large scholarships. I just need to wait and see who I hear back from in regular decision. As of now, I'm still waiting to see."

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

The National Merit Finalists, from left to right, are seniors Kevin Kusisto, Danielle Wildrick, Max Dvorak, Wellin Liao and Emily Muha. Alison Mansfield is not pictured.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The administration no longer permits the use of Google Chrome on student laptops and is in the process of removing the Internet browser.

Status: True - This decision was not made overnight; the school has been considering eliminating Google Chrome all year.

"No one action set it off," Matt North, a computer specialist for technology and media services at Homestead, said.

The laptops were strictly intended for school work and research, but are being used to sneak around school blocks necessary for safety.

"(Students) are hacking and going around blocks," Principal Steve Lake said. "Google Chrome does not play well without network."

SACS is not the only place to ban Google Chrome on work devices.

"A lot of businesses don't use it in their company because it is easy for people to creep in and out," Lake said.

This issue is nothing new for Google; they have had problems with Chrome in the past.

"We believe Google should be held to a higher standard, so we have taken stricter action than we would against a typical site," a spokesperson for Google said about Google Chrome.

The technology department does not wish to take services away from the student laptops. The purpose for the laptops is as a tool to aid schooling, and once that objective was distorted, Google Chrome had to be removed to keep integrity in the program.

"Students can go home and use Google Chrome until the cows come home," Lake said. "That's great." --*Tessa Lutz*

▶ SCHOLASTIC KEY CONTINUED FROM 1

Espich submitted two essays to the Personal Memoir section of the writing competition and won a Gold Key for each of them.

"I think it is an amazing program because it gives students like me the opportunity to get your name out there if you're interested in writing," Espich said.

When that opportunity comes around, Espich recommends living life introspectively and observantly so those experiences can be expressed uniquely and effectively when writing any literary piece.

"I put a ton of time into (my articles)," Espich said, who admits he is a bit of a perfectionist. "So it feels nice to have that accomplishment."

Receiving awards for his writing not only boosted Espich's confidence, but also helped determine what he wants to do with his career after high school.

"Winning affirmed for myself that I could potentially have a career in some form of journalism, like writing a column for a magazine," Espich said.

Similar to Espich, victors Tammy Do (12) and Dani Castonzo (12) also received felicitations for their originality.

PHOTO BY ALISON MANSFIELD

The students who earned the highest honor of the Scholastic Art Awards received a gold key. Scott Espich (12), Tammy Do (12) and Dani Castonzo (12) all won gold keys for their submissions to the competition.

"I submitted two photographs to Scholastic," Do said. "I was just drawing on people with these ball point pens, and I think that was what really attracted the judges."

The extensive process Do underwent stretched out over the course of a year and involved countless hours of pre-planning and motivation.

"I had a difficult time trying to figure out how exactly I wanted to conduct the project," Do said. "I started with just drawing on myself to see how I wanted the ink to appear on the skin, and then spent at least six or seven hours drawing on my models."

After some ambivalence regarding whether or not Do truly wanted to continue to pursue her hobbies as a career, Scholastic helped seal the deal by awarding her with two Gold Keys and an American Visions Award.

"I'm glad I started and finished this project, and I'm glad I was recognized for it," Do said. "Winning these awards just made the experience all the better."

In the end, award winners agree that the experience of participating in such a renowned competition is personally more important than the actual reward itself.

Likewise, all the dedication that goes into it is eventually all worth it – win or lose.

In addition to winning the keys and American Visions and Voices Awards, the students' artworks and writings are currently being displayed at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

The competition does not end there, though; in accordance with the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards rules and system set-up, Espich, Do, and Castonzo's works of art and literature will continue on in the running for national medals in New York.

"It is definitely worth your time," said Espich. "Take time on what you submit."

> "I'm glad I started and finished this project, and I'm glad I was recognized for it. Winning these wards just made the experience all the better."
>
> **TAMMY DO (12)**
> *Gold Key Winner*

▶ STANDARDS CONTINUED FROM 1

mixed support among teachers and school officials. Some agree that new standards are more demanding of students than Indiana's individual standards used previously, and some argue that this new update is worse than the original standards. Generally, conservative groups and longtime teachers contend that the old state standards were better.

"Either set of standards guide what the end product should be," Miller said, "but it is my job as an educator to develop the instruction to ensure that students are successful, competent, challenged and engaged in their learning."

Indiana still has one of the worst student achievement records on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

A number of Indiana legislators have changed their position on CCSS since Indiana adopted them in 2010.

Others are opposed to Indiana's return to its previous standards, as many schools have already taken measures to introduce the standards into their curriculum. With Indiana's government undecided on the fate of CCSS, teachers must assist in voicing their support or opposition to the standards.

Adversaries and advocates alike contend that perhaps legislators do not understand the effect these standards have on students' thinking abilities and how they provide means of teaching certain subject matters.

"I believe that these new standards would not have a large effect on the way I learn because it depends on how a teacher implements these standards," Katie Maher (9) said.

Though there are differing opinions over whether the new state standards will make a difference in schools, Ritz and other officials want to further examine the issues behind the CCSS.

"It's a good time to pause," Ritz said at a Senate Education Committee hearing in January. "That's what I'm wanting to do. We're starting to implement it, and so many concerns are coming up. So we want to pause, take a look at the standards and see what Indiana wants to do."

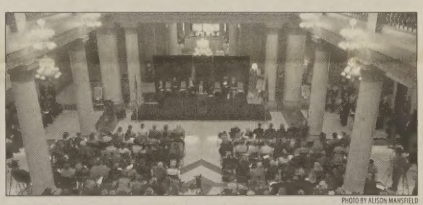

PHOTO BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Attendees of Glenda Ritz's inauguration await the announcement of her plans for the future of the educational system within the state of Indiana.

▶ SCHEDULING CONTINUED FROM 1

offering specialized programs in schools other than Aboite.

The biggest change for middle school students and freshmen is the new requirements to be eligible for Honors English 9.

There will be NWEA and ISTEP+ cut scores to qualify for the class. The test score was decided by looking at the NWEA and ISTEP+ scores of students who received As and Bs in the class.

Enrolling in Honors Bio is contingent on geometry or Honors English, and AP World History is contingent on Honors English as well.

"One of the things I really value about Homestead is that regardless of what kids have done or whether they've been in ALPHA, they have a lot of opportunities to step up into honors and AP classes," Carla Overdahl, president of the ALPHA Parent Group, said. "With these changes, more kids will be eligible for Honors English, and they are qualified and will step up to the challenge."

Overdahl feels the change will put a positive focus on the importance of test scores.

"When you get to Homestead, early on you start to hear about using these four years to prepare for after graduation," Overdahl said. "I think if we invite kids to pay attention to things like NWEA scores and/or grades, even as early as middle school, they will develop habits that will make them stronger students in high school and take in the rigor, which will put them in a better position for college and scholarship applications."

> "If we teach our kids to be solid writers, we're teaching them to be really solid critical thinkers and all of the analysis and synthesis that goes with that."
>
> **CARLA OVERDAHL**
> *ALPHA Parent Group President*

With such a STEM-focused focused world, many are wondering why such an emphasis is being placed on a specific English class.

"Reading and writing is so monumental for classes. You may be the engineering genius of the world, but you will need to read through massive amounts of material, discern what's important and report that to others," Overdahl said. "If we teach our kids to be solid writers, we're teaching them to be really solid critical thinkers and all of the analysis and synthesis that goes with that."

Sarah Poorman (12), having taken Honors English her freshman year, can attest to the benefit of the course.

Poorman says that the class put her on the path to being successful in high school.

"It was a good preparation class. Mrs. Smith really pushes you and helps that transition to an academic paper," Poorman said.

With all of these changes set to take effect by the beginning of the next school year, Downs is optimistic about the future of the gifted and talented/high ability program in the district.

"I hope we are able to provide services to a wider range of student needs and that the program, with its fantastic and highly-trained staff, is a resource that broadens our instructional approach throughout the district and allows our students to compete with the best students in the world," Downs said.

▶ RETROSPECT CONTINUED FROM 1

yearbook at registration.

With this year's preemptive yearbook sales down and production costs as high as ever, the Retrospect staff has been forced to make some difficult decisions concerning the quality of the publication and the reaches of its dwindling budget. Among these decisions was the resolution to cut pages from the 2012-2013 yearbook.

"Page cuts are going to make the yearbook obviously smaller to where we will have to combine stories and merge some spreads together," Brooke Schaadt (12), Retrospect co-editor in chief, said. "(Making cuts) is not a terrible setback, but it could have been a bigger yearbook with the right finances."

In addition to page cuts in order to reduce costs, the yearbook staff has embarked upon numerous fundraising endeavors in order to raise revenue.

Per usual, the Retrospect staff is selling "Senior Wishes," yearbook space for families to post personal pictures and messages for graduating seniors. Additionally, the yearbook is launching a new Sparty Sponsor Levels campaign, allowing parents and businesses to donate money based on four price brackets: Bronze ($25), Silver ($100), Gold ($175) and Platinum ($250).

Despite the large fundraising outreach toward parents and businesses, other various small fundraisers have been and will continue to be offered to the students throughout the school year. Of these fundraising events, Alex Kunce (11) decided to participate in the carnation sale that took place on Valentine's Day.

"I decided to help the yearbook because there was an obvious issue at hand," Kunce said. "I think that students could be more active in the fundraisers that the yearbook has been trying to and does set up."

Looking toward the future, the Retrospect staff keeps a confident and hopeful viewpoint about this year's yearbook as well as the publications of upcoming years.

"The quality, creativity, innovation, productivity and enrollment of our publications classes will impact our growth and viability in the future," Eckler said. "Ultimately, we control the success of our program."

MEMORIES The Retrospect is currently selling yearbooks from previous years. Send your request to retrospect201213@gmail.com

THE SPARTANA
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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor.

Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Editing more desirable than censorship

Administrative censorship only necessary when violation of school rules occurs

By Sydney Isroff
Writer

On Feb. 15 order was disturbed at Homestead High School. Many students' favorite part of Fridays, the video announcements, was censored by the administration, which sent controversy throughout the school.

According to radio and television teacher Thomas Schenkel, the announcements were censored for multiple reasons. First, while being interviewed about a previous dance marathon experience, a student said the phrase "we danced our pants off." Second, "Lola" by The Kinks, a song that has the word "champagne" in it, played during the announcements. Lastly, an anchor in one of the clips violated the dress code by wearing a revealing shirt.

When a dress code violation occurs, announcements should be cancelled given the fact a school rule was broken. If the announcements were to be aired, it would promote the violation and imply it is okay to break the rules. On the other hand, cancelling the announcements because of the word "champagne" and the phrase "we danced our pants off" is absurd.

Hearing the word "champagne" in a song will not encourage students to go out and obtain champagne for their own for consumption. High school students are able to hear the word "champagne" without freaking out, so why can't the administration?

It is difficult to see why the phrase "we danced our pants off" would be a contributing component to cancelling the announcements, given the fact it is absolutely harmless. That is a common phrase people use every day to describe the large amount of dancing that occurred; it is not a way to tell people to start dancing pantless.

I commend the administration for deciding not to air the announcements due to a dress code violation; however, in the future when this comes up, students should be allowed to view that week's announcements on YouTube.

Also, why not just cut out the part causing the controversy and air the approved portion of the announcements? An alternative option would be to edit, then-re air the announcements on the Monday or Tuesday of the following week, so students featured on that week have the opportunity to be seen.

The administration was right to acknowledge the dress code violation, and act accordingly. I start to disagree, though, with the other contributing factors; the song with "champagne" in it and the phrase "we danced our pants off." I am sure students have heard much worse things said in the hallways and won't catch on fire and burn from hearing those said or sung on the announcements.

FILE PHOTO

Matt Hamilton (10) asks Steve Lake questions on the weekly HHS On Demand segment, "In the Hot Seat with Mr. Lake." Hamilton's questions for Lake involve a variety of topics students have interest in, from changes in school lunch food to 1:1 computing internet policy.

Teacher within rights to suggest heterosexual prom

By Devin Wright
Writer

Students and a special education teacher at Sullivan High School in southwestern Indiana recently proposed a plan to the school board to host a separate prom from the regularly-scheduled school prom. This additional dance would ban any gay couples from entering.

A massive controversy erupted over this issue, with a dialogue reaching from this small town to the United Kingdom. Already a petition containing 18,000 signatures has called for the firing of the teacher who proposed the idea; she has subsequently been suspended.

The Northeast Sullivan County School Board, to whom the plan was proposed, renounced any affiliation with the teacher's opinion. Threatened with massive litigation, the school board has distanced itself completely from the issue by suspending the teacher.

Now for the crux of the matter: is the suspension moral? Should a commmunity host a prom that bans gay students?

It is very similar to the Boy Scouts Organization not accepting homosexual people into counseling positions. These people do not hate gay people. They simply do not support a gay person counseling their children, as the homosexual lifestyle contradicts their religious belief system.

The backlash that the small town has received for its Judeo-Christian beliefs has been far from justifiable. With no malice in her heart, the teacher proposed what she believed to be moral and just, yet she has been called a homophobe and a bigot by hundreds of people who signed the petition.

The local church, despite having nothing to do with the prom, had to disconnect its fax machine because of the harrassing emails and pornographic images sent from anonymous persons.

This small community's business has been maligned by outside media who were not aware of the current issue. The left populous and media need to respect those who disagree with the homosexual lifestyle.

They need to stop attacking Judeo-Christian beliefs. Devout Christians are not antiquated just because they believe in the Bible and its teachings.

Why is the one who stands up for his or her conservative beliefs being persecuted for them? Is it an effective strategy to attack these people and label them homophobes, racists and traitors?

Bob Morris, one of Indiana's recently elected state representatives, accused the nationally-renowned Girl Scouts of affiliating themselves with feminists, lesbians and communists. Morris was bombarded with verbal attacks from the liberal media, and his children even received condemnation from other children at school for their father's opinion.

It does not make one a conspiracy theorist to want to keep a cherished American organization biblically moral.

Parents are not homophobic because they want their children to attend a dance with heterosexual partners. Why shouldn't any parent have a right to choose how to raise his or her children?

The liberal media is effectively attacking any belief system contrary to their own. It is rather ironic that a self-professed political party who embraces diversity of thought is so divisive and intolerant of opposing views.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Gentlemen's Agreement

Transparent code of conduct during extracurricular events necessary

By Colton Shaffer
Copy Editor

Altercations between school faculty and students are certainly not unheard of at Homestead, but one, between two athletic directors and a few students at a basketball game, hints at something more serious than typical student-faculty relations.

On Feb. 8 at a girls' basketball game between Homestead and Huntington North, four students said they went to spend time with friends from the opposing school whom they had met previously.

Although the students said they were not breaking any rules and were not behaving in a manner that warranted reprimand, the students said they were approached by the athletic director from Huntington North, who asked the group to move back to the home stands. Not long after, their athletic director fetched athletic director Joe Updegrove. These students said he questioned them as to whether they were inebriated and offered them an ultimatum: move back to the Homestead side or leave the game.

"So we left, and (Updegrove) followed us out," Scott Espich (12), a member of the group of students confronted by Updegrove, said. "We were honestly shocked. We were just catching up with friends that we met at a Campus Life spring break trip."

The story quickly circulated through the school. In order to maintain the integrity of a quality publication, the Spartana attempted to clarify the issue with Updegrove before pursuing the story. On March 11, Updegrove sat down with the Spartana staff to explain his side of the story.

> "I don't disagree with informing, but it can be difficult to classify everything."
>
> **JOE UPDEGROVE**

Updegrove shared a certain, unwritten "gentleman's agreement" where the athletic directors from opposing schools keep the students from each school separate. Whether this deal was the motivation behind the removal of Espich and his friends remains to be seen.

Going forward, the administration ought to consider defining the rules of conduct at after-school events more carefully in order to prevent another student missing an event. After that, sticking to those rules consistently would be a great first step. Unspoken rules are difficult and cumbersome to students at best and unfair at worst. When a problem such as student seating arises, it deserves clarification. Singling out a group of spectators who describe themselves as "rule-abiding" for an seemingly-unwarranted reprimand is not an acceptable policy.

But herein lies the tricky part. The line between informing and unduly constricting is blurry at best. The school cannot expect students to follow rules they don't know exist, but that doesn't mean the school needs to enumerate every single right the students have.

"I don't disagree with informing, but it can be difficult to classify everything" Updegrove said. "Dekalb has a student handbook with rules about three inches thick."

Internet blocks undermine technology

The Ed Board

Joe Laughlin *Tori Barnard*
Laura Zweig *Clair Pranger*
Dani Castonzo *Ryan Boylan*

It seems, for the sake of safety, school officials will stop at nothing to hinder, if not outright revoke, the privileges of students.

The school-issued laptops, which have been a constant nuisance since their introduction, have been forced to undergo an incessant stream of updates that mandate system reboots, now taking away the last seeming vestige of student freedom: Google Chrome.

With the loss of the coveted and vital search engine went students' abilities to access sites quickly and efficiently.

This change obviously does not sit well with the majority of the student body.

Indeed, it would be a hard task to find a student who thinks the added weight of a laptop is compensated for in its usefulness and helpfulness.

While Firefox and Internet Explorer remain, the sleek design and speed of websurfing with Chrome are irreplacible.

This last, rather derisively named update has served only to remove whatever limited function the computers served.

When all the Internet restrictions are accounted for, these clunky laptops are nothing more than glorified typewriters.

Perhaps, though, the intent of the administrators was just that: to equip the students with electronic devices as rudimentary and controllable as possible so as to give them something upon which they can complete their assignments, but with only the faintest hope of freedom to access the Internet.

Although if that had been the point of the laptops, then administrators are left back at the original conundrum that prompted the laptops in the beginning.

The problem that the school faced last year was that the ratio of students to computers was too low to guarantee legitimate access for all.

But the problem is essentially the same if the students are given laptops that are so tightly controlled they cannot function as they were intended.

This vicious, seemingly never-ending cycle calls into question why the school even bothered to integrate more technology into the curriculum at all.

The idea, however begrudged by students and technologically-challenged teachers, does have potential, but thus far it has not been realized.

School officials walk the hard line between too much and too little control, and the reticence to allow the latter has hindered any sort of progression.

> "When all the Internet restrictions are accounted for, they are nothing more than glorified typewriters."

If the technology problem is to have a solution, it will come only after the two irreconcilable notions of freedom and control have reached a compromise. But that compromise may not be possible if school officials are not willing to concede the extremity of their monitoring.

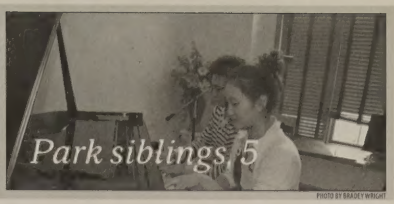
{The Bottom Line} *The laptops have potential, but school administrators must realize that too many restrictions are just as harmful as too little.*

twitter take

Every Sunday night Sydney Isroff will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Twitter.

Question: "What do you want to see at the Variety Show this year?"

@leee_uhh - Leah Stinson (11) ▶"A surprise performance from Daymon Osborn."
@gosh_Samn_it - Sam Moore (11) ▶ "Lexey Denning successfully spelling every word correctly in a text."
@ABSamatterafact - Abbey Kittaka (11) ▶ "Something that results in a suspension."



Park siblings, 5

PHOTO BY BRADEY WRIGHT

Dedication to Catch Phrase Club 'never ends'

Friendship, intensity draw new members to team in second year of activity competition

By Darby Cook
Writer

The clock is ticking, and the stakes are high. Staying strong under the pressure, Chris Robinson (12) and teammates listen closely to the vital clues uttered by team captain Bradey Wright (12). Stress, excitement and competition: this is Homestead Catch Phrase Club.

Catch Phrase is a fast-paced game in which a single person must explain a word or phrase to his or her teammates without actually saying the word or phrase. During any Catch Phrase game, a player can expect to encounter wild gestures, frantic finger-pointing, contorted facial expressions, angry shouting and maybe even a few tears.

Because of the game's obvious enjoyment, graduate Lauren Purlee ('12) founded Catch Phrase Club last year. This extracurricular is now continued by club co-captains Wright and Kylie Burton (12).

"I decided to join Catch Phrase Club because of the pure sport," Burton said. "I am also a legacy; my father was a champion of Catch Phrase."

PHOTO BY BRADEY WRIGHT

Club member Abbey Kittaka (11) explains a word to fellow players Reagan Cook (11) and Emma Frankin (12) at a team practice to prepare for upcoming competitions. The team splits into two different groups for competitions, with one junior varsity team and one varsity team. Each team is comprised of players from all grade levels.

Burton, like her father, is a skilled Catch Phrase player who dedicates most of her time to practicing. The whole team adopts Burton's intense work ethic.

"We brain train," Burton said. "All the time the Catch Phrase Club is training. It never ends."

Since many of Catch Phrase Club's founding members graduated last year, the team consists of many new members. Robinson, a newcomer to the club, is completely happy with his decision to join.

"As a new member and the best player to ever set foot in Homestead, I can truthfully say that it meets all of my expectations," Robinson said.

Like Burton, he said that the practices are equally intense and entertaining.

"Right off the bat we all eat 10 raw eggs for protein. Then we do different brain exercises to warm up a bit," Robinson said. "After that we play Catch Phrase for hours until we pass out from sheer exhaustion."

Unlike Robinson and Burton, Jill Grote, math teacher and club sponsor, is a total newcomer to Catch Phrase. However, since her involvement with the club began last year, she has now become an avid enthusiast of Catch Phrase. Although practices are commonly held at student houses and not in her classroom, she attends almost all of the club's meets.

Grote cited the team's enthusiasm as her favorite aspect of the club, recalling a meet against Huntington North. "All the club members wore crazy outfits from Goodwill. Everyone went all out; it was great to see such dedication," Grote said.

▶10,000

words programmed into the electronic handhelds, which are further separated into categories

SOURCE: WWW.WORD-BUFF.COM

Burton said that the camaraderie among the teammates and their dedication to one another is significant.

"Catch Phrase is my everything. It's what I wake up doing and breathing. My team is my family and my family is my everything. Catch Phrase or die," Burton said.

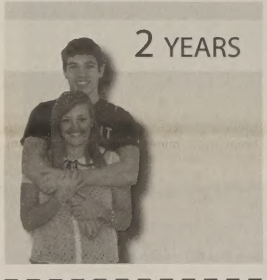
Catch Phrase is an excellent opportunity for students to participate in a fun, competitive activity and presents students with the opportunity to interact with new, exciting people.

Potential members should contact Mrs. Grote in room 504 or students Burton and Wright.

Burton has three reasons for new members to join Catch Phrase Club.

"Number one, I am there. Number two, you get to get aggressive. Number three, we have cheers," Burton said.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU



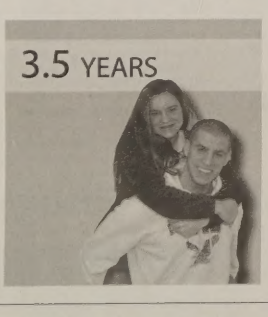
Gavin Lovvorn (11) and MacKenzie Smith (12)
Length of relationship: About two years.
Spartana: How did you two meet?
GL: We met on the marching band bus; I was introduced to her by Mark Townsend (12).
Spartana: What did you do on your first date?
MS: Technically, our first date was semi-formal. We went to Applebee's with a bunch of our friends.
Spartana: What is the best relationship advice for couples who want to have a long relationship?
MS: It's not always going to be perfect. Things are going to change, but if you put forth the effort to get through it, the relationship will only grow.
GL: It is important to be forgiving.
Spartana: Favorite date restaurant?
MS: Probably Applebee's. We always seem to go there together.
GL: Probably Outback Steakhouse because they have a lot of different juices that you can order, and their steak is really good. The only problem is that Kenzie doesn't like steak.

"It's not always going to be perfect. Things are going to change, but if you put forth the effort to get through it, the relationship will only grow."

MACKENZIE SMITH (12)

PHOTOS BY EMILY KAMINSKI

Jonathan Marble (12) and Shae Eakright (11)
Length of Relationship: three and a half years.
Spartana: How and where did you two first meet?
SE: Our families have been friends since before we were born, so we have always known each other.
Spartana: What is your favorite activity to do together?
JM: We are very laid back and enjoy just relaxing.
SE: I don't really have a favorite activity to do with Jonathan. We like to sit around at home and play games or watch TV, nothing too exciting.
Spartana: What's the key to staying together so long?
JM: Tell each other when something is wrong or if there is a problem. We don't get upset about the problem, we just fix it.
SE: You have to be able to trust each other. If you can't trust each other, it is really hard to stay happy.
Favorite date restaurant:
JM: Firehouse Subs
SE: Firehouse Subs



"Tell each other when something is wrong or if there is a problem. We don't get upset about the problem, we just fix it."

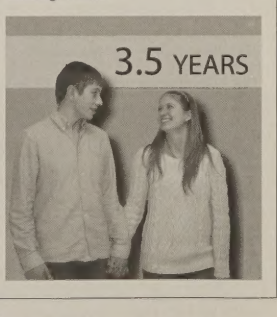
JONATHAN MARBLE (12)

Greg Zimmerman (12) and Casey Miller (12)
Length of relationship: About two years.
Spartana: How did you two first meet?
CM: Our moms work together and happen to be really good friends, so my mom set me up to babysit for Greg's little sister. Greg came home while I was babysitting and helped me put his sister to bed.
Spartana: What is your favorite activity to do together?
GZ: Every month on the 22nd we go to some awesome restaurant and pig out on deserts. I also enjoy arguing with Casey, because I am always right.
CM: Relaxing on the pier under the sun at the lake after riding his Jet Ski or signing autographs together as Mr. and Mrs. Obvious.
Spartana: What is the best way you asked Casey to a dance?
GZ: I asked Casey to semi-formal by hanging a huge poster on the side of a fire truck. I had her put all of my fire gear on and made her think she was going to a house fire. Just before we pulled out of the station, she saw the "SEMI?" poster.
Spartana: Favorite date restaurant?
GZ: Probably IHOP. She always gets the same meal: strawberry-banana French toast with fruit instead of meat.
CM: Debrand's. Our month anniversary tradition is getting a double scoop peanut butter chocolate ice cream sundae.

Max Dvorak (12) and Emily Muha (12)
Length of relationship: About three and a half years
Spartana: What is the best way Max asked you to a dance?
EM: I have a huge sweet tooth, so he made me a giant cookie and decorated it with icing that asked if I would go to semi-formal with him. He left it on my doorstep for me to find. So sweet and so delicious.
Spartana: What is your favorite memory together?
EM: I have a lot of great memories, but the one that I cherish the most is the first time he told me I was beautiful.

Max was a man of few words, so it was a big deal. We had been dating for a couple of weeks and were at the pool.

It was super hot; I was sweating; my hair was in a messy bun; I had no makeup on. He turned to me and said, "Emily, you are absolutely beautiful." It still makes me smile thinking about it.



Student achieves highest ranking in Boy Scout program

Lucas Endres (11) strives to emulate good character, continues to help others

By Colby Shoup
Writer

Lucas Endres (11) is what some people may call an overachiever. He has earned the highest honor given to Boy Scouts, and he manages Benjicast, a Facebook page making predictions about changes to the school day due to weather. The Spartana caught up with Endres in after lacrosse practice to chat about the honor and his Facebook page.

Spartana: Would you recommend Boy Scouts to others?
Endres: I would definitely recommend scouts to everyone.
Spartana: Why?
Endres: I feel like everything that I did learning to be a good, trustworthy, helpful person came from my dad (an eagle scout) and the scouting program.
Spartana: What is Boy Scouts mainly about in your opinion?
Endres: Boy Scouts is about becoming a better person and helping others become better, as well as developing useful skills. Many teens do not continue Boy Scouts all the way to becoming an Eagle Scout.
Spartana: Why did you continue with Boy Scouts?
Endres: I have been with the program since first grade, slowly honing my personality and developing interest.

I feel like I stayed with the program because all of the activities we do (camping, swimming, shooting, arts/crafts) and because I have friends who stayed in the program with me.

Spartana: What are the most important lessons that you have learned from Boy Scouts throughout the years?
Endres: I learned some extremely important things from Boy Scouts, including lifesaving and first aid skills. I also learned the importance of giving back to the community through volunteering and what it means to be each point of the Scout Law.

(Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, curteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.)
Spartana: Why did you take over the Benjicast?
Endres: I took over the page because I am good friends with the founder, Ben Griffith.

When he graduated I inherited the page. I will probably pass it on before I graduate next year too.
Spartana: How do you make your predictions?
Endres: I look at what has happened in the past, considering that the most. I also listen to Ben's input and use a bit of gut feeling and common sense. I use multiple weather sources to get the best idea of what will happen.
Spartana: Is keeping up with the Facebook page time-consuming?
Endres: Yes, often times I am up well past midnight determining what is likely to happen, answering questions and monitoring the posts and followers.

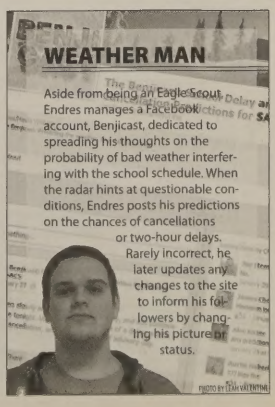

WEATHER MAN
Aside from being an Eagle Scout, Endres manages a Facebook account, Benjicast, dedicated to spreading his thoughts on the probability of bad weather interfering with the school schedule. When the radar hints at questionable conditions, Endres posts his predictions on the chances of cancellations or two-hour delays. Rarely incorrect, he later updates any changes to the site to inform his followers by changing his picture or status.

PHOTO BY TIAN VIETHYNE

End of school year provokes senior nostalgia

The rapidly approaching end of senior year brings with it many new and exciting experiences, including but not limited to a lack of motivation, growing resentment toward high school and all that it entails and a plethora of time to waste. This shift in focus from high school to actual life leads to extensive self-reflection, as you look back on all the things you never got to accomplish in your four years at high school. I could have been a cheerleader. I could have played lacrosse (or any sport, for that matter). I could have worn stylish hats and made more daring choices in footwear. Well, in theory, anyway.

Because I've always been a really big fan of lists, I composed one of all the things I want to accomplish before high school ends:

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

1. Slide down the railing on the stairs. This classic move, seen mostly in Disney movies and rarely in real life, is usually associated with positive messages like "freedom" and "teenage rebellion." Well, as long as I can stick that sharp turn.

2. Try every food item the cafeteria offers. Yes, this does include the foot-long hot dogs, the hardboiled eggs in the salad line and the questionable steak dippers. And no, I am not copying Greg Zimmermann on the video announcements.

3. Win a round of Dirty Duckers. Last year, team Not the Face lost all three games after a humiliating 45 seconds. I can't be positive, but this may have been the result of our fear of the ball, our fear of the other players and our fear of moving from the wall. If we win a single game, or even get a member of the opposing team out this year, I will be happy.

4. Go upstairs and run the mile that I walked so frequently during gym freshman and sophomore year. I wonder if it's too late to improve those grades.

5. Stand at the top of the stairs and throw a stack of papers down like in "10 Things I Hate About You." Maybe people would actually read the newspaper if it hit them in the face on their way to class.

6. Get asked to prom in a ridiculous way. Speaking of "10 Things I Hate About You," in the movie Heath Ledger sings a charming rendition of "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" for Julia Stiles on the bleachers in front of everyone. I have an irrational fear of being serenaded in public, so this exact gesture would not work, but anything of that caliber would be fine. For the record, I do realize that this is not actually in my control.

7. Park in the junior lot. Let's see how they like it.

8. Complete the Walmart challenge. Now, a challenge like this is not for the faint of heart; to win, you must spend 24 uninterrupted hours in Walmart, shopping, eating and observing. If you make it, I've heard that you emerge a changed person.

9. See all the hidden parts of Homestead. I want to walk down the tunnel, plant something in the greenhouse, observe a class in IMPACT, run through the back of the cafeteria and throw objects off the roof. Although I've never tried anything more drastic than jiggling a locked doorknob or two in the past, this is the time to make these dreams come true.

10. Go swimming in the environmental center pond. I've heard there are a lot of snakes and other questionable organisms in there, but that is a risk I'm willing to take.

11. Make the school website. It's all I've ever wanted.

12. Get a six pack. Just kidding.

13. Overcome my fear of squirrels. I realize that this has nothing to do with high school, Homestead or you, but I think it's time. After all, I'm about to go out into the real world, and I've heard there are a lot of squirrels there.

14. Start the wave at a pep rally or other large school event.

15. Go crowd surfing at a pep rally or other large school event.

16. Learn all the words to "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore. Anyone who says that this is not a dream of hers is lying.

17. Go out with a bang. I'm one of the four seniors who is actually going seven periods this semester, so I will get to hear that glorious bell of freedom at 2:35. If some confetti or balloons were to fall from the ceiling as I victoriously skipped out the doors, I wouldn't complain.

18. Jazz up graduation day with some senior swag. I don't care if I'm the only one with a senior beanie, a senior t-shirt, senior gym shorts and an optimistic "Unlock Your Future" senior necklace under my graduation gown. It's almost as fun to wear them as it is to mock them.

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PARKS in Recreation

PHOTO BY BRADLEY WRIGHT

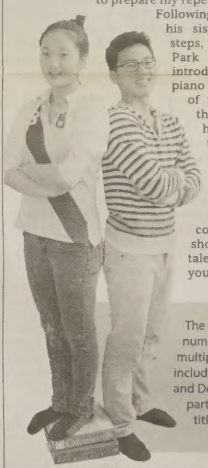
Park family focuses on children's exceptional musical talent

BY ALLIE NELSON
Writer

Whether their musical talent is genetic or the result of significant dedication, siblings Sang Jun Park (10) and Jiwon Park (12) have recently made similar strides in piano performance. Since being recognized in the American Protégé International Piano Competition, they will both prepare for performances at Carnegie Hall this year.

From the age of four, Jiwon Park has devoted her life to playing the piano. Originally instructed by her aunt while living in South Korea, she has since expanded her skills through obtaining international experience.

"I've prepared for this by (practicing) a wide range of music from Bach to Muszynski in the recent years," Jiwon Park said. "I've also attended summer piano academies at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and met with professors in Europe to prepare my repertoire."



Following closely in his sister's footsteps, Sang Jun Park was first introduced to piano at the age of five. Since then, he too has consistently participated in both national and global contests to showcase his talent. From youth, he and his sister have been committed to piano.

"I have always liked piano because it is a stress-reliever. It offers an escape from reality," Sang Jun Park said.

Their extreme dedication to music throughout life, contributed to by experiences and hard work along the way, has proven to pay off. A distant dream among all performers became a reality. They participated in the American Protégé International Piano Competition and were awarded for their achievement. Jiwon Park was named a first-place winner and will perform at Carnegie Hall in March. Sang Jun Park earned an honorable mention title and will travel to New York City in December.

"I am really proud of Jiwon and Sang Jun's achievements," Jin Yoo Park, their mother, said. "It is not easy to play piano well. Sang Jun was influenced by Jiwon and he too has a gift."

This year, the competition includes applicants from twenty-six countries worldwide. All submitters simply send in a video of their long-rehearsed pieces and are placed in categories based on performance. The judges invite winners to play at the music hall in concerts throughout the year.

According to the competition's website, "the program seeks to encourage more young musicians to perform and grow. [It] offers many benefits to participants and helps to build their confidence and realize their dreams. Being introduced to new audiences on stage in New York City, one of the world's grandest performance venues, participants can expect to have a memorable experience."

Although there were several age groups and levels of achievement, the entrance accessibility made earning a title more challenging than suggested by the list of winners.

"First, second, third and honorable mention winners are given the chance to perform at Carnegie Hall. This was my first time competing so I'm honored that I won first place," Jiwon Park said.

▶7
hours spent practicing piano in preparation for Jiwon's Carnegie Hall performance.

This year she plans on preparing for the performance differently. Because she has already experienced participating in this recital before, she understands the steps necessary to feel confident about her act.

"My last performance at Carnegie Hall was one of the worst performances in my life," Jiwon Park said. "I was really nervous and I made the mistake of wearing heels so I couldn't pedal well. I'm going to prepare by practicing very, very slowly and with a metronome because I have a tendency to rush when I'm on stage."

Although both pianists have achieved success in the instrument from youth, only Jiwon Park plans on studying piano in college. After being accepted to the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, she is keeping her mind open about continuing music beyond high school. Sang Jun Park intends to continue with piano not at the professional level but for his own enjoyment. Whether they pursue piano as a career, the instrument has undeniably taught them lessons beyond the measures of the music.

"Every kid does not need to be good at piano, but it is important to learn not to give up easily," Yoo said. "It requires skills that Sang Jun and Jiwon might not continue practicing forever. It is endlessly challenging. But piano can be a good friend in their lives."

The accomplishments of the Parks are as broad as they are numerous. Beyond the piano, Jiwon and Sang Jun have won multiple awards in engineering, science, writing and business, including an Award of Achievement at the International Career and Development Conference where the the Parks teamed up as partners for the competition. Jiwon has even won the first place title in the prestigious National Student Film Festival.

Students 'submerge' in charity event

Polar plunge fundraiser benefits Allen County Special Olympics

BY MEGAN CATER
Writer

"Freezin' for a Reason" does not refer to the chilly temperatures students have to endure on the walk into school in the morning, but rather the Special Olympics Allen County's (SOAC) annual Polar Plunge. On the frigid morning of Feb. 16, students and members of the community submerged themselves in a tank full of water to help out the Special Olympics cause, marking the sixth annual Polar Plunge.

The goal of Special Olympics Allen County is "for all persons with intellectual disabilities ages 8 and up to have the chance to become useful and productive citizens who are accepted and respected in their communities."

SOAC supports Special Olympics Indiana which is a non-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions in more than 20 Olympic-type sports such as swimming, track and field and basketball among many others.

Special Olympics focuses on children and adults with intellectual disabilities and reaches more than 11,000 athletes across Indiana.

"Without the support of this community, there would be no program as no athlete pays to play and all dollars come from the businesses and the individuals of our community."

JULIA FIECHTER
Event Coordinator

The money raised aids in training and competitions in the Olympic sports.

"We appreciate all of you who plunged and volunteered," Julia Fiechter, fundraising and event coordinator for Special Olympics Allen County, said. "Without the support of this community, there would be no program as no athlete pays to play and all dollars come from the businesses and the individuals of our community. Surrounding counties even take the plunge to show their support."

For the past two years, this event has been held at Parkview Field. Sparking an interest in the community, Mayor Henry spoke at the opening ceremony.

Also, athlete Tim Hofacker and Officer Albert Jennings lit the torch of hope and carried it to the tank to kick off the 2013 Polar Plunge.

To participate in the plunge, students must raise $50 and other members of the community must raise $75. All the proceeds of this fundraiser go to Special Olympics.

"This year my friends and I made a team called 'We're dippin' for Brandon' in honor of my cousin Brandon. Then individually you have to raise at least $50 and that money goes toward Special Olympics. To raise money you can physically go around and ask (for money) or make a website which I did, and family members and friends can donate," Lea Bowman (12) said.

Many student jumpers participated through Key Club; however, students had different reasons for jumping.

"A few of my friends did the Polar Plunge for the past three years, and they invited me to be on their team this year. The money was for a great cause, and it was sort of a personal challenge," Jamie Baer (12) said.

With the help of local businesses such as Republic Services and Master Spas, the tank has been notorious for its icy waters and the relieving hot tubs have been an incentive for people after the plunge.

"We appreciate the support we get from local businesses to put on this plunge along with the many volunteers it takes to make the day run smoothly," Fiechter said. "Homestead High School students and Key Club students have always been awesome when it comes to plunge day."

With over 185 plungers and over $30,000 in donations, the SOAC Polar Plunge was a huge success this year.

"It was for a fantastic cause. The kids get to participate in the Special Olympics and it's cool to help them do that," Kyle Bowers (11) said. "And even though it's freezing and probably the coldest thing you'll ever do, it was fun at the same time to do with friends and help out the community."

PLEDGE THE PLUNGE

This year's plungers succumbed to frigid temperatures, submerging themselves in water at below the freezing point. Every year, salt is added to the water in order to keep it from freezing and consequently turning to ice. The chemicals in the salt lower the freezing point of the water, making the actual temperature of the water well below freezing and the provided hot tubs all the more relieving.

boys' basketball sectionals, 7

PHOTO BY REAGAN MINESETT

Boys' team wins city championship against Leo

Hockey team advances through State Semi-Finals, falls to Brebeuf Jesuit in championship

PHOTO BY BRADEY WRIGHT

Players huddle and discuss strategy before the city championship game begins.

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Editor In Chief

Paul Lee (12) took off down the ice early in the first period, slicing left and right past defenders before slipping a pass to teammate. Robbie Clay (12) broke free at the goal mouth and whipped in a shot; a close save by Leo's goalkeeper–a common feature of the Fort Wayne City Championship–kept the Spartans at bay before a late shooting spree sent the team to a 4-1 victory.

"We knew our chances would come, so we stuck to our game plan," Lee, a forward, said. "We eventually started putting the puck in."

Despite the team's slow start, a quick tap-in by Jay Conkling (11) started the scoring for the Spartans as the final seconds of the first period ticked away.

Four goals in the second period distanced the team from the Lions. Lee, who led the state in points-scored for the third-consecutive season, connected with the back of the net after fighting his way through a line of defenders, and Landon Rody (11) added two more goals for the team.

"I knew I had to lead by example, and it felt great to put in the eventual game winner," Lee said.

Leo tallied one goal against a strong defensive line-up in the second period, led by Elliott Sweazey (11), a three-year veteran of the team.

Though Leo scored four goals the last time these two teams met, the defenders managed to prevent any other goals for the rest of the game.

"The speed and intensity (of previous games) has helped everyone's game improve," Sweazey said.

As the last period transpired, cohesive defensive efforts by both teams disrupted all scoring attempts. The Leo team grew increasingly frustrated and sparked minor altercations on the ice with the Spartan defensemen.

Hostilities intensified near the end of the period, but experienced leadership on both teams kept the players focused.

"One of the things we talked about was how the game was going to get chippy," Max Dvorak (12), a center, said. "We had State coming up, so just knowing that, we all knew we had to keep our cool."

When the final buzzer sounded, the team celebrated its fourth-consecutive city championship title. The game meant more than another trophy for the seniors.

"It was a really incredible feeling for me and the other seniors," Dvorak said. "That's been a goal of ours since the beginning, and so it's something we'll all remember."

The players carried this optimism to the state tournament, where they competed with three other teams in pool play.

After advacing to the State Championship, the team lost 5-2 to Brebeuf Jesuit; despite a tough loss, the team reflects positively on the season.

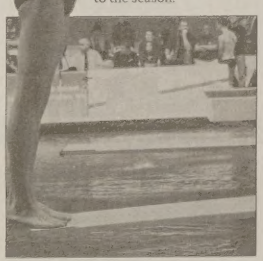
"Our chemistry and team camaraderie have grown tremendously this season," Lee said. "I think after this year, I'll take away a whole lot of positive memories."

PHOTOS BY ETHAN YDE

Freshman dives into Top 10 placings at State competition, plans for future in diving

BY ETHAN YDE
Writer

Kevin Frebel (9) won the ISHAA Sectional diving competition and finished third in the Regional competition to qualify for the State meet in his first year with the Spartans. He is also the brother of Kyle Frebel ('08) and Dan Frebel ('05), former divers for the team. The Spartana sat down with Frebel to reflect on his successful end to the season.



Spartana: What was your greatest challenge this year?

KF: The biggest challenge I had to overcome would have to be getting my 11 dives. At the start of the season, I only had 10 good dives to compete and I needed 11. I eventually learned an Inward 2.5 tuck (405C.) This dive was not only very difficult to learn but extremely difficult to perform well in a meet. I managed to complete it and do the dive well which really boosted my final scores in meets.

Spartana: What did it take to give it your best performance at the meets?

KF: My performance in a meet has always been difficult for me. In most of my meets, especially as they start to get bigger. I get too nervous and tense up. For me to perform my best, I need to relax. I do this by listening to music and just focusing on my next dive.

Spartana: How did it feel to finish first for your team in both the Conference and Sectional meets?

KF: Well to be honest, it felt very good to be able to win both of those meets. During conference, I was very proud of the Homestead dive team, because we are able to do a 1-2-3- sweep. It went me, Bailey Harris (10) and Patrick Rittenhouse (11.) In Sectionals, I felt even better, because both (Rittenhouse) and I were both able to move on to Regionals which was a very big accompishment.

Spartana: What does it mean to you to make State as a freshman?

KF: It really does mean a lot for me to be able to make it to State at the young age that I am. It is a very big accomplishment, and I am very proud of myself. Not many people are able to go to State in general, and being able to go as a freshman makes me feel very honored.

Spartana: Do you feel any pressure being the younger brother of accomplished divers?

KF: My brothers were always in the pool. That means that they were setting new records very often. Some of my brothers' diving records are still around today, and no one has beaten them yet. There is some pressure being put on my shoulders of needing to beat their records and continuing my brothers' accompishments.

Spartana: What are some of your future goals in diving?

KF: Well, I want to pursue my diving as much as I can. It would be really cool if I could get a scholarship for a good college. Yet, my lifetime goal for diving is to go to the Olympic Trials. That would be such a great accomplishment for me, but it would be very difficult to be able to do that.

Above: Kevin Frebel (9) executes a dive in the State finals held at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Left: The diver preps for a takeoff during competition. Right: Frebel stands on the winners' platform to recieve his eighth-place medal.

Intramural season sparks tension amongst students

Competition 'has gotten better' as new talent joins the league; intense race to championship continues

BY HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

Athletes in search of a less-structured, more lenient basketball league take advantage of this time of the year when intramural basketball rolls around.

Participants of all grades create teams for a six-weeklong experience of games. Teams consist of an average of six players, with the voluntary, but usually overlooked, option of a coach.

"There are a bunch of good teams in the league, but Make it Nasty (my team) will probably make a heck of a run in the playoffs to become repeat champions," Grayson Bastin (12) said.

With the league open to those who chose not to go out for the school's team or merely want to play, the skill level of each team and of individual players is evident.

However, that does not take away from the passion and determination each player brings.

"My team and Connor Houser's All Stars are the two best teams," Matt Skowronek (12), fourth year participant, said. "It's a two-team race for the championship."

Rules of the game are less rigid than in official basketball, but overall has the same dynamic.

Intramurals usually involve teams who run set offenses like regular school basketball, and in some cases the games evolve into a three-point contest.

Players do not frequently run into tough defensive schemes.

Meanwhile, referees tend to be laid back.

"(The point is) to have fun without the pressure of coaches," Skowronek said. "The competition has gotten better because there are some people that stopped playing for Homestead."

> "I wouldn't miss the chance to play in a league like intramurals. The experience is really just for fun, but I'm out to win."
>
> **SPENCER STRAESSLE (12)**
> *Intramural Basketball Player*

A few of these veteran players include Isaac Griffith (12), Brad Nutter (12), Gavin Lehmann (12) and Bastin.

"Freshman year, I was on a completely different team than I am now, but it becomes a business. Teams will recruit the best players for their program right from the halls of Homestead," Bastin said.

While intramurals lack a few key components of a traditional basketball leagues, the predetermined outcomes and mindset preparation are quite similar.

"Before most games you can tell who the winning team will be, but there are always upsets. (There are) also a couple really good games where there is no telling what the outcome will be," Spencer Straessle (12) said.

The student section of fans is sporadic, but the intensity of the more strong-minded players never dwindles.

After regular season games, an increase in supporters generally show up to playoffs.

"There are very few fans that regularly show up in the stands, which is a problem," Bastin said. "However, a solid heckler can greatly affect the outcome of a game if they know how to get into a player's head."

Despite the shared desire to win, the event brings an enjoyable, yet competitive atmosphere allowing students to spend time together and have fun outside of school.

"I wouldn't miss the chance to play in a league like intramurals," Straessle said. "The experience is really just for fun, but I'm out to win."

PHOTO BY REAGAN MINESETT

Jonah Watson (9) gets ready to shoot a basket. Teams compete with an average of six players in a friendly environment.

Winter sports end, March Madness begins

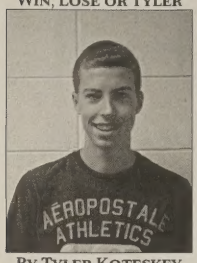
I'd like to take this time to salute the greatest sport ever, basketball. Baseball can try to make a case as the American sport, but in the Midwest, there's no competition. Basketball has certainly captivated fans throughout the nation.

Last month was February. Upon research on the "worst month in sports," I found that February ranks fairly high on the list. I still remember my freshman math teacher, Dave Panning, explaining to us that February is always the worst month of the school year for students' grades, due to lack of motivation and other factors.

Yet, I have found that it is arguably one of the worst months for sports as well. As winter sports like wrestling and swimming conclude, spring sports always seem to wait around to begin.

The baseball and softball games do not begin until late March. Your average high school and college sports fan needs some sport to step in to fill the void in this awkward transition period between winter sports and spring sports. Cue basketball.

WIN, LOSE OR TYLER



BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Sports Editor

After the Super Bowl ends football season, sports fans' eyes quickly turn to the nation's true favorite sport. Although some Canadians, like Jay Conkling (11), may still try to entertain themselves watching a hockey game, most of us have turned our heads toward basketball.

This year, college basketball has provided the excitement of the year. Why else would I be watching a late night game between two schools (Valparaiso and Wright State) not much larger than Homestead? This comes just days after a thrilling Big 10 matchup that went "down to the wire" between Indiana and Michigan, on a final tip-in when nearly everyone in Indiana held their breath.

This is college basketball. It has been a season of thrillers, of Butler buzzer beaters, of Victor Oladipo dunks, of 5 overtimes, of rivalry games. And all this has happened in our home state, right before our very eyes. Not only that, but we must understand that the best is yet to come.

If you are reading this, that means that is at least March 1, which means that you have survived the one of the worst months in sports. Congratulations. College basketball's iconic "March Madness" beckons, as students anticipate one of the greatest months in sports. According to a 2001 Gallup poll, 47 percent of Americans say they are fans of college basketball.

If they conducted that same poll this year, I would be shocked if it didn't increase. Americans have become immensely captivated by this extraordinary college basketball season, and now, eagerly anticipate its finale.

One undoubtedly unique aspect of this year's college basketball season is the fact that there has not been one incredibly dominant team. In fact, at one point in this season, for six consecutive weeks the number one ranked team (in the Associated Press Poll) lost, and the number one team changed five of those weeks.

> "One undoubtedly unique aspect of this year's college basketball season is the fact that there has not been one incredibly dominant team."
>
> **TYLER KOTESKEY**
> *Sports Editor*

Luckily for students, college basketball hasn't been the only exciting level of basketball this season. Our own Spartans have turned some people's heads as well. After Nick Gamble's (12) epic buzzer beaters against Columbia City and Jay County, fans began to take notice of the Spartans.

Both the girls' and boys' teams kept students entertained, with a total of only 4 losses at home between the two teams in the many games held at Homestead. Those games have arguably been just as fun for the fans as they have for the players.

This year, Homestead has hosted countless packed student sections with avid fan involvement.

Even the NBA has had an extraordinary season of its own. With its iconic legend Mr. Michael Jordan himself turning 50 weeks ago and LeBron scoring at least 30 points every night, countless reporters jumped at the chance to start the annual "Who's better: MJ or LeBron?" debate. For the record, until LeBron finally competes in the dunk contest or saves the Looney Toons from an alien race, it's still MJ in my opinion.

"So why is basketball the greatest sport?" you may ask, and I'm not positive that I have a correct answer. I grew up near Indianapolis where basketball was life, where life revolved around sports.

Therefore, my childhood may have given me an inherent bias of some sort, but nonetheless, basketball has always had a special place in my heart. This season has only confirmed that role: basketball is the greatest sport.

Luckily for us fans, we recognize that we probably will not be the next LeBron James or even the next Victor Oladipo for that matter, but we can sit back and enjoy one of the greatest sports in history.

So take heart, because it's not February anymore. It's March Madness.

'I couldn't believe that it was OVER'

- Trevor Osborn (12), Guard

PHOTOS BY JACLYN WEISSERT

Team receives heart-breaking loss in Sectional championship

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Editor In Chief

A pervading silence overwhelmed the student section that assembled at Huntington North as the final moments of the boys' basketball season drew to a close.

After losing a hard-fought Sectional championship to New Haven 80-71, the team walked swiftly off the court as the Bulldogs' students rushed to celebrate with their team.

"It was hard to see our best friends leave the court for the last time," Brian Hanford (12), student section leader, said. "We still had a great season, and we walked away with our heads held high."

Before meeting in the postseason, the two teams faced off Feb. 2 at New Haven, where the Bulldogs won 82-70, serving Spartans their first loss in the NHC Conference. From this loss, the team realized the talent it would face in the Sectional tournament.

"We knew that we were capable of winning the game, but we were also aware that New Haven was a solid team," Seth Coate (12), forward, said.

The team entered the game reeling off a 48-45 victory against Jay County in the first game of the Sectional tournament.

After coming out in an early lead, the team allowed Jay County's consistently perfect offense to claw its way back to tie the game with less than a minute to play.

> **▶14**
> assists Nick Gamble (12) tallied against New Haven as he broke the single-game record
>
> SOURCE: MAXPREPS.COM

Point guard Nick Gamble (12) confidently walked the ball up the court as the remaining nine seconds ticked away and dropped a smooth three-pointer over the hands of a defender to seal the victory.

"The shot did not affect my mindset much; I was happy to win the game, but my mind was on winning Sectionals," Gamble said. "But it was an unforgettable moment."

When the Sectional championship finally began, however, the excitement of the buzzer-beater quickly diminished. The opponents hit five of their first three-pointers as a team, proving early in the game that the Spartans would have to fight an uphill battle.

"We knew we had to get it together in order to keep up with their shooting," Coate said.

The offense largely began at the hands of Gamble, who has been a key component of the team's success throughout the season. By conclusion of the game, he broke the record for the most assists in a single game and the most assists in a single season. He finished with 14 assists in the game, raising his tally about 150 assists for the season.

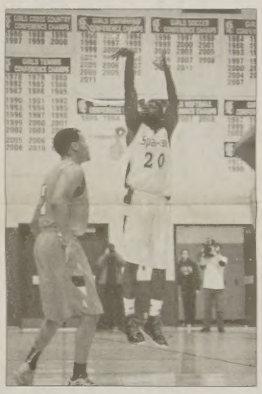
"I said ever since my freshman year that I wanted to break the assist record and to finally do it my senior year felt good," Gamble said.

Gamble fortunately had a dynamic offense to complement his talent, as Trevor Osborn (12) hit momentous shots to tally 24 points, knocking down six three-pointers. Coate tallied 9 points of his own, and the poise of Caleb Swanigan (9) at the free throw line kept the team competitive with the Bulldogs.

Despite their relentless efforts, the players could not surmount the overwhelming offensive prestige of New Haven.

As the reality of the season's termination sets in, the players–especially the seniors–tugs at the hearts of those athletes who have grown in the program over the past four years.

"It is a surreal feeling," Osborn said. "The toughest part is knowing I am not going to put on a Spartan uniform again."



Nick Gamble (12) steps behind the arc to shoot a three-pointer over a defender.

POP CULTURE MATRIX	Favorite pre-game meal:	Worst driver on the team:	Our coach's celebrity twin:	Our team's band name:	An animal to represent our team:
MAX SILCOX (12) *track*	"Pretzel Sandwhiches"	"Mitch Myers (11)"	"Jake Gyllenhaal"	"The Papi's"	"A cheetah"
JESSICA SCHNEIDER(10) *softball*	"Chicken Quesadillas"	"I've only ridden with a few, but out of those Tori Strelec (12); she gets distracted easily"	"Harrison Ford"	"Legends of the Flying Hawk"	"Our Hawk, Tarzan"
TYLER ZIMSKE (11) *baseball*	"Subway sandwich with a bowl of SpoonZ yogurt"	"Coach Byall.. long story"	"Sotir looks like Nick Saban"	"The Mug Crew"	"A Beaver"
ARI NELSON (12) *track*	"Hotdogs and steroids"	"No one drives, we run everywhere!"	"Angelina Jolie"	"The Flash"	"Turtles"
TREVOR OSBORN (12) *basketball*	"A chipotle chicken burrito with extra lettuce"	"Nick Gamble, because he doesn't have his license"	"Ryan Seacrest"	"The VaLLeY"	"California Condor"

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

JOY 4 JONES

Art teacher spreads joy, positivity through school

By Alison Mansfield
Feature Editor

It is only in sorrow that bad weather masters us; in joy, we face the storm and defy it. At least that's what British novelist Amelia Barr tells us. But in the halls of Homestead High School, joy is waging a crusade of its own–a contagion of inspiration, positivity and cooperative school culture that's helping both students and teachers weather their storms.

It was two days before Christmas when art teacher Sarah Jones learned her mother had been diagnosed with stage four liver cancer. The cancer was so advanced that, according to Jones's mother's oncologist, had she not sought medical treatment as soon as she did, she would have had only four to six weeks to live.

"I was completely devastated when I heard that my mom would require up to eighteen months of treatment," Jones said. "But my mom's a fighter and a believer in miracles and happy endings."

Jones, a teacher renowned for her upbeat disposition and positive mental attitude, decided to channel her grief into outlets of positivity–instead wallowing in despair, she chose joy.

"Thinking about my mom would make me feel my grief really deeply," Jones said. "I would come to school with a heavy heart, and it showed in the way I was teaching. But I decided to counteract the negative feelings I was having. Like me, my mom is a perpetual optimist–I knew she wouldn't want me moping around on her behalf. So, I chose to honor her by spreading joy."

A cancer diagnosis wasn't the first influence that fueled Jones in her mission to spread joy. Earlier in the school year, Jones became acutely aware of an abundance of negative speech present in classrooms and the halls. Embarking on a mission to heighten her students' awareness of the power of language, Jones spearheaded a blackout poetry movement called SpeakUP, a project that quickly took off under the direction of the Art Club. In addition to this special project, a constant staple in Jones's classroom is something she calls the box of joy.

"I've always been a big fan of fortune cookies and the little inspirational sayings inside of Dove chocolates," Jones said. "The Joy Box is designed to just give students a positive message and a little pick-me-up on the days they're feeling down."

In the aftermath of her mother's diagnosis, Jones decided to share the influence of the joy box with the entire school.

"It was the first day of my mom's chemotherapy treatment when I decided to start handing out 'pieces of joy' in the hallways," Jones said. "People were a little skeptical of the idea at first, but the more exuberant I was in my expression, the more receptive people were to it. By the second or third day I tried it, people were walking up to me and asking for joy."

During passing periods, Jones would distribute slips of paper bearing uplifting sayings or quotations. Many of these handouts were cut by art room student assistants.

Jamie Baer (12), a student assistant in Jones's classroom, said she was proud to be a part of the joy box.

"Looking for pieces of joy to add to the box (was) definitely a welcome break from my schoolwork," Baer said. "I enjoy being a part of something so positive."

Student assistants were not the only students to aid in Jones's mission to spread joy, however. Azalea Pennington (12) also honored Jones's mission by creating the Facebook page "Joy for Jones."

"I've lost a lot of family members to cancer," Pennington said. "In fact, my aunt had lung cancer. I was just such an inspiration to me to see Mrs. Jones making something positive out of something so negative. It was inspiring to see her joy spreading."

The Facebook page, which features regularly-posted quotes and pictures, now has 60 'likes' and counting. Fans of the page are encouraged to send in the quotes they'd like to see posted.

"The Facebook group has gotten a lot of positive feedback," Pennington said. "This is something that's really important to me and I'd like to see it spread throughout the school."

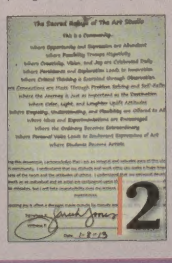
Many students and faculty have embraced the message of joy, and inspirational messages will likely circulate for weeks to come.

"I can't think of anyone who doesn't want a little more joy in his or her life," Baer said. "Spreading joy is a great idea because it can really turn someone's day around."

1

THE CONTRACT

In order to encourage students to join in her quest for increasing joy in the school, Jones recommends that students sign a positivity contract. By signing this contract, students pledge to choose joy, even in negative situations. They pledge to always seek for positives in all experiences and in other people. The contract also includes a witness signature, meant for another student. This witness is meant to aid the student in fulfilling their pledge to be positive, giving the pledges a reminder to seek for joy. Once students have signed the contract, Jones hangs it on a wall in her classroom as a constant reminder that the student should always strive to find joy.


The Sacred Refuge of The Art Studio
This is a Community.
Where Opportunity and Expression are Abundant
Where Possibility Trumps Hopelessness
Where Creativity, Vision, and Joy are Cultivated Daily
Where Persistence and Exploration Leads to Innovation
Where Critical Thinking is Exercised through Observation,
Where the Journey is Just as Important as the Destination
Where Color, Light, and Laughter Uplift Attitudes
Where Empathy, Understanding, and Flexibility are Offered to All
Where Ideas and Experimentations are Encouraged
Where the Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary
Where Personal Voice Leads to Profound Expressions of Art
where Students Become Artists.
Sarah Jones
1-2-13

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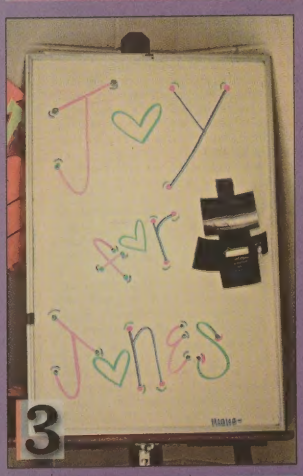

3

1. The joy box contains positive messages to brighten a bad day. 2. The "joy contract" promotes the elimination of negativity. 3. The whiteboard out side Jones's room conveys the message.

THE SPARTANA

▶NEWS The school district chooses Mr. Park Ginder as the new principal for Homestead High School beginning in the fall of 2013. 1

▶OPINION The state's refusal to pay for AP exams in the humanities and language classes discredits their academic value. 3

▶LIFE David Macias (12) begins the long road to recovery from a horrible car accident initially reported as a fatal incident. 4

▶SPORTS As a new season arrives, the spring sports teams begin preparation for a new, potentially successful year. 7

▶FEATURE Just Because Week provides students with opportunities to showcase school spirit in dress-up days and fun events. 8

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CARROLL ART TEACHER TALL FATHER COACH NEW DEKALB PRINCIPAL

WHO IS MR. GINDER?

ENERGETIC SMART

District selects new high school principal

By Laura Zweig
Executive Editor

When Rick Smith unexpectedly announced over the summer that he would be taking a position at Zimmer, his position as principal was left vacant. Although Steve Lake stepped up to be interim principal, his appointment was only a temporary solution. After a year of uncertainty, the school board announced that current Dekalb High School Principal Park Ginder will be filling the position, starting at the beginning of the next school year. Students can look to Ginder's past experiences as an indication of what is to come.

MEET THE PRINCIPAL

If anything, Ginder has tried it all. With degrees from Ball State University, IPFW and Indiana University, he has worked at middle schools and high schools as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. Ginder applies this viewpoint to his own teaching philosophy.

"What we have to be doing with kids is personalization of education," Ginder said.

Ginder believes one of the most valuable traits he will bring to the job is his enthusiasm.

"I'll bring a lot of energy. Students will see me at events all the time. My past habit is to remember as many names as I can, usually between 400 and 600 kids at a time," Ginder said."

▶ SEE 'GINDER,' PAGE 2

> "I'll bring a lot of energy. Students will see me at events all the time. My past habit is to remember as many names as I can."
>
> **PARK GINDER**
> *Future Principal*

PHOTO BY EMILY KAMINSKI

Few spaces remain empty in the senior lot when classes begin for the day.

Parking lot controversy continues

By Hamna Qureshi
Writer

Despite repeated warnings, juniors continue to park in the senior lot, angering fellow juniors and seniors alike.

"I get aggravated because (the juniors) are taking the seniors' spots," Madison Kloster (12) said. "I had to wait my turn to park in the senior lot, and they need to wait their turn too."

This problem is not new and persists despite the administration's repeated attempts to keep juniors out of the senior lot. According to resource officer Ingrid Herriott, all of the lots are monitored for cars that are not supposed to be parked there.

"The parking lot violations are addressed, when we have time, from a disciplinary standpoint. Otherwise the issue is already addressed at registration when students are given their tags," Herriott said.

> "I had to wait my turn to park in the senior lot, and tehy need to wait their turn too."
>
> **MADISON KLOSTER (12)**
> *Senior Driver*

Juniors who park in the senior lot sometimes try different tricks so that they will not be caught. However, unless the lot is not checked that day, these students usually do not get away with parking in the wrong place.

"Usually (the juniors) will try taking their tag down or turning it around, but running the registration on the car always tells me who it belongs to," Herriott said.

Students who choose not to follow the rules can expect to be thoroughly punished for their transgressions.

"Any student who doesn't park in their assigned lot can be ticketed with a Homestead High School Parking Violation Ticket. Their

▶ SEE 'PARKING LOT,' PAGE 2

Club places 8th in national competition

Members craft project of 32 steps to hammer nail in Rube Goldberg contest

By Darby Cook
Writer

The science club competed and won against 16 other teams in the Rube Goldberg contest on March 2. This was the club's first experience in the competition, and the winning team consisted of Brooke Adams (10), Parker Angelos (10), Daniel Clark (12), Natalie Hawken (11), Jason Ivanovic (12), Weishan Liao (9), Wei-lin Liao (12), Melissa Marks (10), Stephen Mattson (10), Anna Tatara (12) and Jeremy Tatara (10).

"The Rube Goldberg competition is where students build a machine that incorporates many complicated steps in order to complete a simple task; in this year's case, it is to hammer a nail," Wei-lin Liao said. "The idea is to incorporate as many household materials as possible. Also, since Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist, the machine has to incorporate humor."

The team's primary outlet for humor was subtle and through the use of puns in selection of certain parts.

"Our team's theme is 'Space Exploration.' We incorporated things like pressing the spacebar on a keyboard, the big bang, constellations, the jumping over the moon, the solar system, a UFO abducting three cows, the Nyan Cat, a shooting star and, in the end, a rocket hammers a nail as it lands on the moon," Anna Tatara said.

The science club accomplishes all of these tasks in just 32 steps.

In order to create a machine intricate enough to complete so many abstract steps, the science

▶ SEE 'SCIENCE CLUB,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

The members of the science club created a project that completed a simple task, which for this competition meant hammering a nail, in the most complicated way.

BRIEFS

CAR CONTROL CLINIC
A clinic involving safe driving strategies for both parents and students will be held at Homestead April 26-28. The clinic is sponsored by the Teen Driver Safety Foundation and plans to teach student drivers how to respond to emergency situations. The clinic involves both classroom and behind the wheel portions.

SUMMER PE CLASS
Summer PE classes will be offered to students again this year but will not start until June 6. In addition to traditional sports, students will take field trips involving golfing, bowling and other activities. Forms are available at the door 1 office or from any PE or health teacher.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Due to the school cancellation caused by snow on Monday, the last day of school has been moved from June 3 to June 4.

Graduation rate increases to new record level

By Priscilla Lin
Writer

Amidst a lulling plateau of consistent yet unimproved graduation rates arrives fluctuation of hope as administrators recently announced a 2 percent increase in the 2012 graduation rate.

Already among the highest in the state, Homestead's graduation rates seemed to have reached a point in which there was an unlikely hope of significant increase. Compared to the 87 percent Indiana average, Homestead's 2012 94.5 percent shows a large margin of improvement and encourages district administrators with the prospect of a positive and fast improving future.

Administrators are attributing this boost in graduation rates to the work of both the students and the teachers, the district focusing on professional training as a means to ensure a high caliber of success.

"Our district has a strong commitment to professional development for teachers," Chris Riley, literacy coordinator, said. "Even with budget cuts we've found creative ways to help (development) happen... we don't let budget cuts and politicians stop what we do. The commitment is huge in terms of a school."

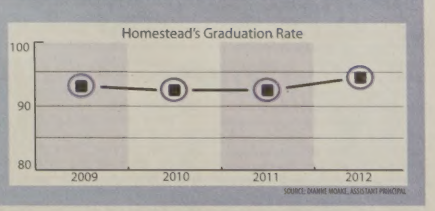
Branching out of such professional development is the expansion of the advisory and Navigation 101 programs. Administrators believe that these programs provide students with the motivation they

▶ SEE 'GRADUATION,' PAGE 2

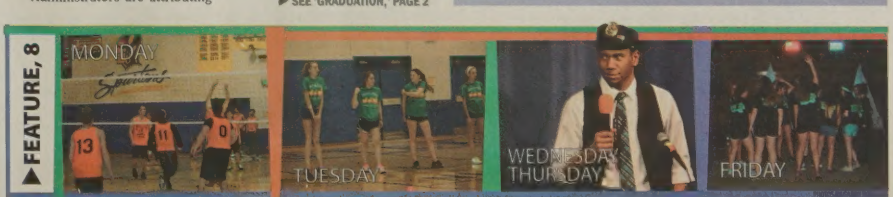
FILE PHOTO

Former principal Rick Smith led the school throughout its climb in the graduation rate. Between 2009 and 2012, the graduation rate jumped 1.4 percent, including a 1.6 percent rise last year.

THE REBOUND



SOURCE: DIANNE MORAT, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



▶ PARKING LOTS CONTINUED FROM 1

parents are notified, and the student is called to discipline," Herriott said. "A repeat offense can result in their car being towed, which costs well over $100 to get their car out of impound from the other side of the county."

Hannah Miller (11) acknowledges that there are consequences to parking in the senior lot and believes that the punishments in place are good deterrents.

"I think the punishments currently in place are fair," Miller said. "They provide motivation not to park in the wrong place and give you some chances if you break the rule before a more severe punishment is given."

And though sometimes the problem seems systemic, some juniors advocate the dichotomy between the general lot and senior lot as wholeheartedly as the seniors being victimized.

"I don't really see a point in the juniors in the senior lot. (The current juniors) will find it just as annoying as the current seniors do when juniors are taking our spots next year," Miller said.

PHOTO BY EMILY KAMINSKI

The lack of parking spaces spurs commotion for seniors who arrive late to school.

Some, on the other hand, believe vigilante justice is the solution to this ever-growing problem and see student action as the solution.

"I think it's a good idea to let the seniors take care of the problem, as long as it's within reason and nothing too drastic," Rachel Farmer (11) said.

Juniors who abide by the current system, however, do not have to wait too long for their turn to park in the senior lot, as less than nine weeks of school remain.

"The senior lot is reserved for seniors," Herriott said. "They've been around the longest and deserve to get to park closest to the school. Juniors who complain about it now, will only want it enforced for them next year."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: If seniors choose to take an overwhelming number of senior skip days, the administration has the ability to revoke the execution of the senior activities day.

Status: True - Homestead has treated seniors to a senior activities day for years.

SACS does not provide a definition for senior skip days, but for many seniors they are a rite of passage.

"If senior attendance is very low, then we could reserve the right to take away a privilege," assistant principal Jeff Kintz said.

That privilege could easily be senior activities day if senior attendance continues to decline like it has in years past.

"If they cancel (senior activities day), the senior class will be really upset," Bianca Blaettner (12) said. "It will give them a bad reputation."

Indiana state law requires 180 full days of education, and skip days are not built into that figure.

Senior skips days are far more popular than they used to be.

"They are becoming somewhat of an epidemic," Kintz said. When compared to that of a similarly sized school, Homestead's attendance didn't even compare.

"If we had a class of 575 students, we had 500 absent, whereas another school only had 75 skip," Kintz said.

Not only can rewards be revoked, skip days are a major problem for the attendance office.

Currently, senior activities day is to be held as previously planned.

--Tessa Lutz

▶ GINDER CONTINUED FROM 1

For students who fear change, Ginder offers a few reassuring words.

"(At Dekalb) the changes that impacted the quickest had to do with rules, like implementing tardies. Over time it has made things better. We tried to raise the bar on academic expectations and increase the amount of writing students did across the curriculum. We were able to get kids who may have seen themselves as incapable of continuing school to consider their post-secondary options," Ginder said.

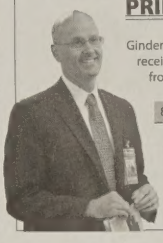
And for the yoga pants that students fear will be banned?

"The rumors are always more interesting than the truth. We haven't spoken at all about any rule changes, but that doesn't mean there won't be some," Ginder said.

Despite enjoying his tenure at Carroll and Dekalb, Ginder is excited for his future at Homestead.

"It was a really hard decision. We have some great things going on at Dekalb, but you know there are certain places that offer you opportunities and a chance to learn. There aren't many times that a school like Homestead becomes available," Ginder said.

PRINCIPAL PROFILE



Ginder's career, noted chronogically below, began after receiving an undergraduate degree in art education from Ball State University and a Master's from IPFW.

8 years	Shawnee Middle School Teacher
15 years	Northrop High School Teacher
15 years	Baseball Coach
9 years	Assistant Principal at Carroll
2 years	Principal at Dekalb High School

APPLICATION PROCESS

When an administration position opens up, the task of finding a suitable replacement candidate falls to superintendent Dr. Steve Yager and assistant superintendent Dr. Phil Downs.

"Our school board said to me, 'You do the interviews and the research, and when you're finished, we'd like to meet your recommendation,'" Yager said. "We really didn't publish or post this position like we do some teaching positions."

Yager and Downs narrowed the decision down to three candidates and began their first candidate interview on March 1. Ginder was recommended for employment at the school board meeting on March 19, where he was approved.

"Ginder's vision appealed to us. He has a very strong background in instruction and curriculum and strong relationship skills. His knowledge of the evaluation process for instructors and his love of being around high schools and high school students appealed to us," Yager said. "He has very successful track record as principal at Dekalb."

Downs looks forward to the fresh perspective that Ginder will offer.

"I'm not sure he's going to bring a whole lot of changes at first. He'll bring a fresh set of eyes. In the conversations we've had with him is that he's excited to be a part of a great team," Downs said.

Yager said that Ginder wasn't brought into make significant changes.

"He's here to help instructors and teachers to do everything they can to help students and to help them get prepared for their next step in life. His job is to make our teachers as effective as they can possibly be," Yager said.

THE FUTURE OF LAKE

Although interim principal Steve Lake submitted his name for consideration, he was not chosen as next year's principal.

Lake helped guide the school through many changes this past year, such as the 1:1 computing program and a new system of teacher evaluations. Furthermore, he changed the role of principal, making efforts to engage with students and be more present in the hallway.

"The position is so demanding that you could sit behind a computer all day long, but I decided that it was more important to be out around the kids, to be in the hallway when the bell rang and to be at lunch," Lake said.

Because the transition between former principal Rick Smith and Lake occurred within less than a three week period. Lake was forced to make a quick transition.

"I would like to thank the teachers and students at Homestead for all of their support this year," Lake said.

Lake will remain on the administrative staff next year.

"If I really care about the kids and teachers, my job is to make the transition as smooth as I can," Lake said. "All I can do is support (Ginder)."

Students appreciated the changes Lake implemented this year, as well as his dedication to Homestead over the course of his life from his time as a student, through his time as a teacher, up until his role as interim principal.

"In my four years at Homestead, there hasn't been an administrator that I feel cares about students to the extent that he does," Scott Espich (12) said "From a student's perspective, he has done a fantastic job, and it will be hard for his successor to fill his shoes."

▶ SCIENCE CLUB CONTINUED FROM 1

club dedicated countless hours to the project.

"We committed a lot of time to this project; once we spent 11 hours in one day working on the project, starting from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. We would use any time we had such as evenings on weekdays and weekends," Wei-lin Liao said.

Mark Lenfestey, the club's sponsor, is proud of the club, but for him, the club's main goal is to nurture intellectual curiosity.

"We didn't really have a club focus until the students came up with this Rube Goldberg idea. I wanted them to do what interested them and this is what they came up with," Lenfestey said.

After winning the regional competition, the science club went on to compete at Nationals in Pewaukee, Wis. Out of 15 teams, Homestead placed 8th.

"The main goal is to have fun and get the experience," Wei-lin Liao said.

> "The main goal is to have fun and get the experience."
>
> **WEI-LIN LIAO (12)**
> *Science Club Member*

In addition to this being Homestead's first time in the competition, this school year also marks the first year of the science club.

"I started science club last year with some friends. Science club is not even an official school club; it was just a group of kids getting together to talk about science," Anna Tatara said.

Although the club didn't exist until this year, it is already achieving success with the new, high-achieving members it has.

"When we started the club in September, nobody thought we'd make it to Nationals," Lenfestey said.

Because of the science club's success in the Rube Goldberg competition, the small club has received major attention from both the student body and the community.

"With our success this year as first timers in Rube Goldberg, I hope that more science-inclined students will join the club," Anna Tatara said. "I think that Homestead could be one of the best with all the talent in our school."

Student defies odds, prepares to graduate

BY TORI BARNARD
Executive Editor

When Ta'Bria Neosha Collier (12) receives her certificate along with the rest of her special needs classmates, she will not only complete her high school career– she will surpass all expectations about what she would be able to accomplish in life.

At only six months, Collier was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

SMA is a genetic disease that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord, causing a loss of muscle control and negatively affecting breathing, swallowing and walking, according to the National Institute of Health.

The brain's cognitive functions and ability to feel objects and pain are not affected.

SMA is the most fatal genetic disease in children under the age of two. No cure currently exist to combat this disease.

When she was only nine months old, doctors put Collier on a ventilator and other life support systems.

She has Type 1 SMA, the most severe form of the disease, reflecting its early onset.

In Collier's case, doctors diagnosed her case as terminal and did not expect her to live past age two.

Due to her debilitating medical state, Collier has been confined to a bed or a wheelchair all of her life.

Because her immune system is weakened by her disease, which makes her very susceptible to school illnesses, Collier has homebound instruction.

Her classmates Skype with her once each school day, so she can still be a part of the high school experience.

A teacher also visits her house once a week for about an hour to work with her.

"We try to include her as much as we can, sometimes I wish we could include her more but her medically fragile state limits that," special needs teacher Cassandra Yarian said.

Although she is unable to connect with her classmates in person, Collier plans on attending the graduation ceremony that is held at Homestead each year for special needs students, separate from the Coliseum ceremony.

"All of the students in my program are pursuing a certificate," Yarian said. "It is very important for our kids to have the graduation ceremony because they see everyone else going through that process."

Graduating is not Collier's only achievement.

Her ability to overcome the odds has made her the oldest living African American child with this disorder in the country.

"Being different is not a form of weakness but a test of extraordinary strength and courage," Collier said.

▶ GRADUATION CONTINUED FROM 1

need in order to succeed, as well as prepare teachers with the tools necessary in order to get them there.

"(In recent years) there has been a focus on students postsecondary efforts through advisory, Navigation 101 and advisors teaming with counselors," Jennifer Bay, assistant principal, said. "The broader goal of everybody concerned of where students are going in the future has kept our focus on target."

Beyond the classroom, the guidance office has added two additional counselors, another factor which has been said to contribute towards the increase in graduation rates.

"Adding two counselors and a little more individual attention has helped our students tremendously," Rosemary Bobish, guidance counselor, said. "We've started after school study session for student who need a place to do homework and individual counseling groups for those students who struggle."

Looking forward, the district refuses to settle with this small victory. Aware that there is still room for improvement, administrators plan to rely on technology in order to further increase graduation rates for future years.

"We're implementing initiatives that will help engage students in authentic learning," Riley said. "21st century skills are key in thinking about how such skills play out every day in the classroom and how each student has the opportunity to hone those skills."

Currently working on multiple grants in order to further the compatibility between technology and the classroom, administration is attempting to marry digitalized curriculum, Navigation 101 student e-portfolio and professional development in order to establish a curriculum that will best help the students.

Despite the attention aimed at focusing on the improvement of graduation rates, faculty members stress that their main goal for students lies far beyond the classroom.

"(It's) more important to graduate young people ready to be citizens in every sense of the word," Riley said. "Take literacies and apply them in everyday life, and through that find success."

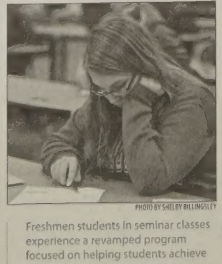


PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Freshmen students in seminar classes experience a revamped program focused on helping students achieve passing grades in core courses.

THE SPARTANA
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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor.

Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Efforts to prevent school tragedy appear feeble

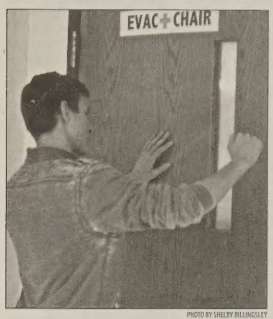


PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Park Lickliter (12) awaits fellow students to open the door before entering a classroom.

The aftershocks of the Newtown, Conn. shooting continue to ripple throughout the country and will probably be felt in schools for decades to come. Such effects deal with an increase in and strengthening of security measures, and Homestead's response is a deceptively simple solution: a policy of locked classroom doors at all times during the school day.

This solution is not, however, foolproof by any means. If anything were to happen on the level of the Newtown shooting, a locked classroom door is not going to present much of a barrier to a crazed individual wielding a dangerous weapon. Those who are sufficiently and maniacally enraged will find the means to render those classroom doors useless.

On top of the inherently flawed logic of the plan, many students and teachers have already found ways around the supposedly tight security measure. Students have taken to walking the halls without passes--yet with teacher permission--simply because the idea of needing a pass to get a drink seems ludicrous. Teachers have declined to lock their doors at all, propping open their doors with trash cans or chairs so that students and other teachers have ease of access.

Rather than neutralize any potential threat, the school administrators have only lulled themselves, the students and the teachers into a false sense of security. Their intentions were noble, their idea simple, but its effectiveness leaves much to be desired.

That said, the plan, or rather, the intentions behind it, are to be applauded. It should always be the top priority of school officials to keep the students under their jurisdiction as safe as possible, and this technique, oversimplified and inherently ineffective though it may be, is evidence of that priority. Administrators may have not done their best, but given the pressure of a limited amount of time in which to act, their efforts are commended.

THE ED BOARD

Joe Laughlin, Laura Zweig, Dani Castonzo, Tori Barnard, Clair Pranger, Ryan Boylan

{The Bottom Line} *Although the policy of locking classroom doors during the day is ineffective, it is a step in the right direction.*

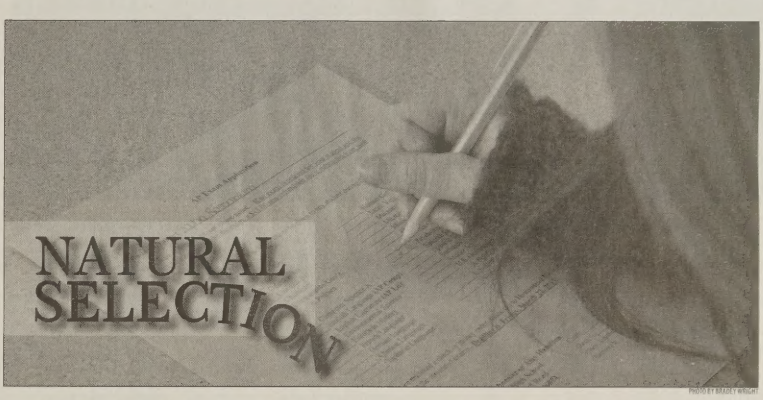


PHOTO BY BRADY WRIGHT

Preference for STEM AP tests undermines humanities

BY COLTON SHAFFER
Copy Editor

For the last decade, all anyone has heard regarding education is an overwhelming inundation of support for the so-called STEM fields, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Whether in President Obama's State of the Union address or in the campaign of Indiana Governor Mike Pence, politicians and those in charge of budgeting funding for education have time and time again proven their infinite preference for these quantitative fields over the humanities, citing their reasons as an effort to bring high-paying jobs to America and catch up with countries such as China and Japan.

While Indiana's political leaders have never explicitly pronounced the humanities, English and social studies, as having lesser value than STEM fields, their decision to subsidize the cost of only math and science Advanced Placement exams for students makes their position crystal clear: math and science fields will prepare students for the most important and sought-after jobs of tomorrow's job market better than English and social studies.

The lopsided classification of an education as nothing more than a stepping stone to a technological career that is seen as highly valuable is short-sighted and ostracizing. Certainly this is not to incorrectly assert the innumerable benefits produced by a technologically-savvy society can bring are less meaningful, but this sort of preferential tunnel vision fails for STEM fields at the detriment of the humanities fails to consider the value of any subject beyond prospective dollar signs--a fatal error in judgment.

The study of the humanities encourages understanding of the universal human experience. The study of the humanities enables students to empathize with triumphs and struggles. The study of the humanities ensures students are able to look into and learn from the past in the hopes of avoiding the unnecessary and superfluous repetition of humanity's darkest moments.

Starving the humanities in order to fatten STEM fields is unwise and unacceptable. The STEM fields must work with proper study of the humanities in order to create a properly educated and exceedingly prepared populace. Science and math give us the ability to build weapons of mass destruction, and the humanities ensure we can properly evaluate when and where to use them. Both offer value, but the synergy of the two produces results more beneficial than either could individually.

Any great society is measured by its contribution to culture and the human experience as well as its contribution to technological advancement. A world without the great masterpieces of Shakespeare, Michelangelo or Bach is equally as frightening as a world without modern medicine.

Although the subsidization of any AP exam is highly-desirable, for which high school students can potentially earn college credit at a tiny fraction of the cost for performing well enough on the exam, the preference for certain subjects diminishes the profound importance of a Hoosier workforce that is technologically-savvy, has a thorough understanding of the English language and can confidently understand human history in order to make decisions about humanity's future.

If the Indiana lawmakers truly wish to give Hoosier students the edge they will desperately need in a rapidly-changing workforce, the only way forward is to prioritize the subsidization of all AP Exams--regardless of the subject matter.

Unfortunately, all of the jobs available to the public that require no skills whatsoever in English and the humanities are currently being filled by robots. Until the day humans have ceased to be human, skills in these fields are just as important as skills in math and science, and ought to be treated as such.

CREDIT WORTHY

A credit hour at Indiana University costs more than 250 dollars for in-state students. The state requires all state colleges to give credit for scores of three or higher on an AP test, so funding for AP tests saves money for students in high school and college.

SOURCE: IRSAR.INDIANA.EDU

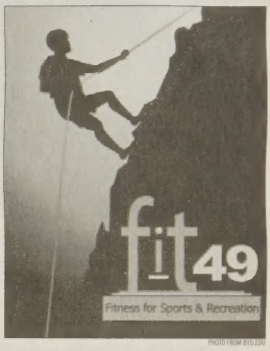


PHOTO FROM BYU.EDU

Fit 49 is the second semester online gym course.

Online gym course should not prevent student graduation

BY SYDNEY ISROFF
Writer

Traditionally exceptional students are currently in jeopardy of graduating. In building competitive transcripts, many high-caliber students have postponed enrolling in physical education classes in favor of taking additional AP classes.

Because two physical education credits are required for graduation, a group of seniors are currently racing through an online gym course offered through Brigham Young University.

While counselors recommended the completion of this course during junior and senior meetings, the actual enrollment of this course was never explicitly required; thus, some students, who own blame for being irresponsible, postponed the beginning of this class.

While students have one year to complete the course, they had to begin it within 90 days of graduation in order to walk in the ceremony, a limitation most students feel was not clearly expressed by their counselors until it was too late.

Though the policy known to faculty is that these classes are taken as a last resort, students find few obstacles in taking this class; in fact, in some cases, it has been recommended to students.

These, however, students claim they are not receiving the help and information they need to complete the requirements; thus, the counselors share some of the blame.

The counselors must be a mediator between the students and Brigham Young, so if the material is vague, the students should have the counselors available as an ally.

These participants should not have to worry about not being able to graduate solely because they are missing a gym credit, if they have not received expected assistance.

Graduation must be a time to recognize academic achievement. As long as they have started the course, students who have met all other requirements ought to have the opportunity to walk.

If these credits are valued above taking challenging courses in academia, does a diploma really reflect academic excellence?

Upperclassmen defy student-picked themes

Just Because Week dress-up day rebellion shows 'splintering of student unity'

BY CLAIR PRANGER
Opinion Editor

When it comes to school spirit, the students of Homestead aren't famous for their get-up-and-go attitudes--practically everyone groans and grumbles at the thought of trudging to the gym or the football stadium to see yet another pep session.

Every year without fail, Just Because Week immediately showcases those who feel most passionately about their school. Heads up: they're the ones who look like backup dancers from Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" music video on 80s Day.

It comes as a surprise, then, that many upperclassmen, who are typically too preoccupied with senioritis to put much effort into any type of school-related activity aside from prom, let alone Just Because Week, have taken it upon themselves to plan alternatively-themed days for the week in a passive aggressive attempt to slam this year's student government as being unoriginal.

While some might experience a pleasantly unexpected interest at the thought of upperclassmen putting more than a teaspoonful's thought into anything other than deciding between a gordita and the school's famous hot rolls, the true implication of these alternative dress days has little to do with spirited students taking an active role in the celebration of an annual school holiday.

Rather, the creation of purposely opposite themes more closely resembles the action of a deliberately impertinent child who, instead of playing nicely with the other kids in the sandbox, prefers to pick up his toys and go home.

Indeed, if the original goal of these students was to show school spirit, certainly the most natural and logical step would have been to follow the days preset by student government with the rest of the students.

After all, school spirit is more than just showing student pride; school spirit is also as much about expressing that pride in a unified manner. School spirit is about walking through the halls, looking around at your students and knowing we're all in this together.

In this case, pride most certainly cometh before the fall, and the fall is the splintering of student unity.

This attempt should not be mistaken as some type of effort to independently celebrate pride in attending the school; it should be seen for what it is: an ill-advised, harebrained, overly-cheeky attempt at levity.

SMELLS LIKE TEAM SPIRIT

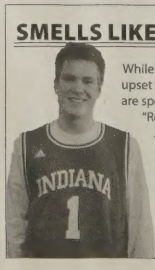


PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

While their refusal to comply with the student-picked dress themes may upset members of the student body, these few upperclassmen believe they are sporting an equal amount, if not more, of school spirit.

"Regardless of what we're wearing, we're still celebrating the purpose of Just Because Week," Paul Lee (12), pictured on the left said.

Though he participated in "Jersday" instead of Tacky Thursday, he argues that he and other students who chose the former show more school spirit than most.

"School spirit shouldn't be defined by a miscellaneous dress-up day," Lee said. "It only matters whether you're making the hallways a better place or actually supporting your team in the stands."

twitter take

Every Sunday night Sydney Isroff will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Twitter.

Question: "If you could be snowed in with anyone, who would it be and why?"

@ Sahara_Desert - Sarah Stevenson (11) ▶ "Can pets count? If so, Carmella, your dog, and because she is just so classy."

@its_BENawhile - Ben Schwartz (10) ▶ "Lucas Tapp (10) because all his hair would keep me warm. #fuzzy"

@haNEATa - Hanita Epstein (12) ▶ "NICHOLSON!"

@BabyBerghoff - Sarah Berghoff (11) ▶ My dog, Java, because we would braid each other's hair and watch movies all afternoon."

PHOTO BY ALISON MANSFIELD

SURVIVE & ADVANCE

PHOTOS BY BRADEY WRIGHT

The air was full of excitement and the student body was elated following a win over Norwell on Feb. 7; however, that jubilation wouldn't last long. News reports of a car accident involving a Homestead student sent shockwaves through the students. According to the first responders, the crash was fatal. **By Laura Zweig**

David Macias (12) got into his car and was heading to Taco Bell to meet up with his friends when the unthinkable happened. Involved in a high-speed race with another student on Jefferson Boulevard, Macias lost control of his car and crashed into a guard rail.

"When my car hit the guard rail, the railings under my seat broke off. The seat and I shifted over, and I was pinned in the bottom of the car where the passenger seat would be," Macias said.

Macias hit his head on the windshield and was unconscious when paramedics arrived on the scene. It took responders 45 minutes to cut Macias out of the car, after which he was rushed to Lutheran Hospital in an ambulance.

"My head hit the windshield, and I cracked it a little bit and broke my nose. I got four broken ribs, a broken wrist, two fractures on my spine and a hairline fracture on my neck. My liver was shattered, which is a grade V injury. I also had a grade II injury for my spleen," Macias said.

When Macias arrived at the hospital, he was sedated so that doctors could insert chest tubes for his internal bleeding. He was later given a neck brace and an arm brace.

Macias was in the hospital from Feb. 7 until Feb. 19.

Meanwhile, Karla Tapia (12), Macias's girlfriend, was at home enjoying a relaxing evening.

"I received a call from one of my classmates. She let me know that she and one of her friends had driven by and that they wanted to see who was in the accident to see if it was a Homestead student," Tapia said.

The classmate recognized Macias's car, got Tapia's number and called Tapia to let her know of the accident.

"At first it was more of a shock than anything. As soon as she said 'accident,' I wasn't really sure how bad it was. You immediately think of the worst thing possible," Tapia said.

Word of the accident quickly spread through the student body, and the hashtag "#prayfordavid" started trending on Twitter.

"When I got on Twitter, I thought it was a great moment. People who didn't even know him were saying '#prayfordavid' and were so supportive," Tapia said. "It was an awesome thing that we came together as a school to support one person and his family."

Twitter quickly became an instrumental tool for spreading information about Macias's status.

"I found out (about the accident) by seeing a Tweet from one of my friends and I knew something wasn't right," Sydney Moran (12) said. "I called someone who I knew went to the game that night, and they told me what had happened. I was scared to death, but I had hope that everything was going to be all right."

Macias is thankful for the support, especially during the recovery process.

"The recovery's been going pretty well. I have to let everything heal on its own and take it easy," Macias said.

Macias no longer has to wear his neck and back braces. His doctors said that his fractures are healing nicely and everything is stable. While he doesn't feel pain for his liver injury, it is still going to take a minimum of 10 weeks to fully heal. Macias returned to school on Tuesday for the first time since the accident.

"From the time I saw David in the hospital to now is such an amazing sight," Moran, who visited the hospital almost daily to show support for Macias, his family and Tapia, said. "His recovery is going so well, and he is still the David I knew before the accident."

Tapia also witnessed Macias's rapid recovery rate.

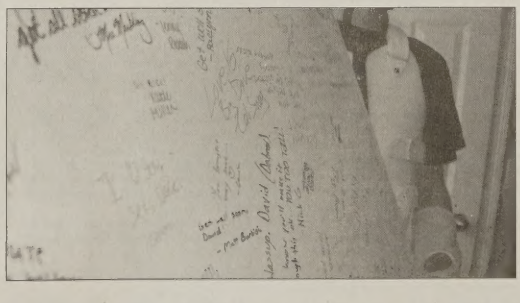
"Just a little over a month ago he was in the hospital. He wasn't awake and had tubes helping him breathe. It's crazy that a month later he doesn't have to wear the brace and he's walking around," Tapia said.

Macias expressed his gratitude for everyone who prayed for him and visited him at the hospital. Over a month after the accident, Macias urges other students to take driving seriously.

"I definitely learned to be a smarter driver. I want to tell people that it's not a joke when they think that they're having fun and that it's cool to drive fast. There are consequences," Macias said. "I used to think I was never going to get into an accident and that it would never happen to me. I don't even remember what happened that night. In a matter of seconds, anything can happen."

"It was more of a shock than anything. As soon as she said 'accident,' I wasn't really sure how bad it was. You immediately think of the worst thing possible."

KARLA TAPIA (12)
Macias's Girlfriend



Left: Macias's mother helps him secure his back brace. Macias's mother has been instrumental in caring for him while he was immobilized due to his accident.
Below: Macias holds the poster made by the student body and faculty. The student body has been rallying behind Macias since the crash, trending "#prayfordavid" on Twitter.

Competition 'prepares emerging leaders' for future

Students thrive with record breaking participation in state level DECA marketing competition

By Megan Cater
Writer

After three days of competition, 18 talented students emerged as champions on March 3 at the State DECA Competition. ninety-four students ventured to Indianapolis to test their in application and presentation of business skills in the competition.

DECA is a high school and collegiate association that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in multiple different business related fields.

"I was introduced to DECA this year through the CO-OP class that allows me to leave early from school and go to work. The class teaches students skills that will help them in the workplace, and DECA is one of the projects that is assigned in the class," Allison Prindle (12) said. "Since I am going to major in business, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to put my skills to the test."

▶18
students invited to compete in the DECA International competition.

Collaborating on business propositions and different marketing strategies, students put the knowledge they have learned from business classes to the test by competing in group and single events.

"There are 45 different events students could participate in, but each student just has one event. They had the chance to submit a written essay, do a role play presentation or run for a state office," Brian McNeal, business and DECA teacher, said.

Students involved in the state competition were excused from school March 4 and 5. There are four different levels of competition beginning at the district level. After ranking well at district, those involved in the DECA competition traveled to Indianapolis to compete at the state level.

"I joined DECA mostly just to spend time with my friends and get a couple days off school, but it definitely helped me learn more about business and allowed me to explore potential business career options. I would recommend DECA next year to anyone interested at all," Cameron Dark (12) said.

Although students were excused from school, they were not just taking the days off. The preparation necessary to compete at the state level began in November. Focusing on one specific topic for months, students became familiar with their presentation or essay.

"My teammates, Amanda Prindle (12) and Maddie Schwartz (12), and I worked for nearly three months on our DECA project. Our event was the International Business Event, which required the proposal of a new business venture," Allison Prindle said. "Our final product includes a 27 page proposal, along with a 10 minute presentation which summarizes our paper."

Placing fourth overall at state, 18 students qualified to advance to the International Career Development Conference taking place April 23-28 in Anaheim, Calif.

"At the state competition, we competed with eight other teams and we finished in first place with 97 out of 100 points possible," Allison Prindle said. "My team and I, along with 15 other Homestead students, are going to Anaheim to compete on the international level, which includes students from all 50 states and seven countries."

Anaheim being the highest level of competition, students that place well may receive scholarships, internships or even possible job opportunities.

"Anyone that is at Homestead should consider doing DECA whether they want to go into business or not. It promotes communication skills and it gives you an opportunity to miss a couple days of school as it is also valuable to your education," Bailey Miller (11) said.

DOMINATING DECA

Bailey Miller (11) and Joey Zirille (10) have competed as partners in the DECA competition since last year. Invited to this year's DECA international competition for the second year in a row, Miller and Zirille hope to return with a win. Their current business presentation is centered around the company Bluehand Entertainment, a local DJ business, which the two own and operate.

PHOTO BY BRADEY WRIGHT

Cell phone users should chime into reality more

I'll never forget my first cell phone.

It was a bulky flip phone with buttons the size of quarters and a tiny screen.

I had unlimited calling and the privilege of sending 250 text messages to my closest friends and family each month.

I loved everything about that phone; the two different but equally annoying ring tones to choose from, the battery that constantly fell out, the way my text messages sometimes came in upside down or backwards.

Although it was the object of nobody desire, it was mine, and I loved it dearly.

However, I started to want more.

After all, I was an eighth grader with a lot of important things to say; 250 text messages wasn't going to cut it anymore.

I was tired of thinking about the worthiness of every text I sent, of running out of texts and being forced to call people and engage in actual conversation when all I'd wanted to know was how many pages we had to read in "Huck Finn."

So I started exceeding my limit. At first it was only by a few; three over this month, four over the next month.

Only when I had bypassed my limit by almost $75 in one month did I realize that I had a problem.

I remember this story every time I see someone Snapchatting the person sitting directly beside them or a family of five sitting at a restaurant staring at five different phone screens.

I didn't have a smart phone then, and I don't have one now; however, much like many smart phone owners today, I was suffering from a severe case of cell phone addiction.

The syptoms of this popular disorder include persistent gaming, a fondness for scrolling through large pages of useless information, a sixth sense for the arrival of new text messages and phone calls, a general lack of interaction in social gatherings and excessive procrastination.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Editor

It's the reason I've spent many awkward car rides sitting in between two people checking Twitter for the fifth time in ten minutes.

It's the reason that I spent our latest snow day sitting alone at the end of the couch while my two friends with iPhones Snapchatted pictures of themselves back and forth to each other for an hour.

Although I'm a bit left out of the loop here, not completely understanding many apps, I think I'm better off without one.

Not to sound too crotchedy, but I've seen what these newfangled devices have done to people.

We've become dependent on our cell phones, texting 24/7 and scrolling through Instagram and Twitter at parties and pulling them out every five seconds just to make sure they are still there.

These devices are more than just phones; they are our entertainment centers, our computers, our exercise logs, our televisions and our best friends.

My friends and I were out at Starbucks one night, and I looked down to check my texts.

When I looked up, I realized that the entire table was staring at their own separate screens, immersed in their own mobile world, and for a minute I wondered if we would all be better off taking our phones out to dinner and for coffee.

I realize that this won't ever completely change, because our phones are always going to be there and we're always going to love them.

So, baby steps. Delete your most addicting game for a day or two.

Try talking to the people around you rather than reading their statuses and Tweets.

If you're feeling really adventurous, let your phone die for a couple of hours and remember that participating in real life can be fun too.

PHOTO BY ALISON MARSHALL

the best checkmates

Group of friends represent school in state chess tournament

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

On March 23, the school's very own kings and queens moved to Honey Creek Middle School in Terre Haute to compete in the 44th annual Scholastic Team Chess Championships.

This year's chess club sent two groups of students to play head to head against competitors throughout the entire state in hopes of winning the grand title.

Within two years, the team has gone from being unknown at State Competition to sending two teams, an impressive and rare feat.

Team A consisted of club founder Steven Cooklev (12), Chenghao Bi (12), Ryan Boylan (12) and Max Dvorak (12). Playing on Team B was Will Davis (12), Alison Mansfield (12), Jay Parekh (12) and Kate Troutman (12).

Among more than 640 players, Team A received a score of 2.5/5 and finished 13 out of 27 and Team B earned a 2/5 score, placing 19th.

Each player had about 45 minutes per side and played in a five-round contest.

"I felt that we had the best team spirit and morale at the tournament," Cooklev said. "Of course, the most important thing was that we had a great time."

During his sophomore year, Cooklev wanted to expose the strategic board game to the public, so he decided to establish the club which regularly draws about 12 dedicated members weekly.

Cooklev was no stranger to competitive chess; the informal club president has entered games all over the country for seven years and uses that experience to teach the fellow members.

He learned how to play when he was eight and has been intrigued with it ever since.

Cooklev became the youngest Indiana State Chess Champion in state history at 15 years old in 2010. At the recent Mid-American Open in St. Louis, he drew his first Grandmaster, the highest title a chess player can attain.

At State, he dominated his matches, winning all five games.

"Chess has an intensity of its own," Cooklev said. "It's very unique. I find it so fascinating."

The contest matches were timed with a clock and allowed players to either alter their chess scores or begin one. These scores were calculated using a rating system based on his or her strength and performance against other players.

> "I felt that we had the best team spirit and morale at the tournament. Of course, the most important thing was that we had a great time."
>
> **STEVEN COOKLEV (12)**
> *Chess Player*

For newcomers like Davis, the experience came to be an enjoyable and learning one. He unexpectedly won three of five matches, surpassing his own expectations.

"Nerves were tense among those of us who had never played competitively before, but spirits were high," Davis said.

Dvorak has been a member of chess club since its beginning and attended the state competition in 2012.

To prepare for this competition, he studied opening techniques, practiced with online games and made friends who were well-practiced in chess to familiarize himself with the game.

After a year of dedication and practice, he used new tips and tricks to win two out of five games.

Dvorak learned how to play the game in an elementary class but joined the relaxing after school activity to improve his skills.

"The club is constantly learning a lot of information," Dvorak said. "Steven teaches a lot of different strategies."

Unfortunately, the seniors who founded and anchored the club will be graduating, leaving roles for leadership open.

The young and encouraged members must now to publicize and rally to carry on the underrated club.

"Joining is a fun experience to get involved in," club member Scarlet Eckhardt (10) said. "We have a good time and others should come too."

The sophomore said she would consider possibly taking over headship and would be honored to attend future competitions.

The club taught her how to play, and she continues to learn something each week.

Chess club provides a casual environment for students to enjoy themselves. The variety of snacks every week sets this group apart from the rest of the extracurricular activities as well.

Although this year's club members are passionate about the game, chess is becoming less popular with younger crowds, especially in Indiana.

Fewer schools are competing and showing small interest in contending. However, with determination from local students, the game will become more appreciated.

"I hope that somebody will step up and take over the club," Cooklev said. "Chess is undervalued. It holds value in intellect."

READING THE BOARD

THE ROOKS

Kate Troutman (12), Will Davis (12) and Jay Parekh (12) made impressive appearances during their first time on the squad's B team.

THE KNIGHT

Intellectual powerhouse Max Dvorak (12) returned for his second year as a vital component of the A team.

THE KING

Steven Cooklev (12) has toured the country for seven years as a chessplayer. He won all of his games at the chess tournament. His skill inspired the team to wear shirts with the his face on the front beneath the word "hope."

Students seize the day upon club sponsor's retirement

Latin students earn high honors and recognition at 60th annual State Convention

BY KATE TROUTMAN
Writer

Latin may be a dead language, but the Junior Classical League (JCL) Indiana State Convention is always full of life and appreciation for Roman culture. Students in Latin club attended the JCL State Convention at Indiana State University from March 15-16.

Members attended State to compete in graphic arts, creative arts (costume/oratory), spirit and certamen, which were all tied to Roman culture. Certamen is the Latin form of Jeopardy!, except with teams.

"Certamen takes practice once you get to a certain level," JCL co-council Courtney DelaCuesta (11) said.

The agenda was packed with other events besides competitions, including a Roman banquet, pizza party, Rent-a-Roman auction, a Hunger Games themed roll call skit and Minute-to-Win-It event.

Retiring at the end of this year, Kathy Adair, JCL sponsor and Latin teacher, attended her last State after 25 years of leading the organization.

"My first hope for the convention is that everyone had a good, safe time at the competition and came away with a feeling of accomplishment," Adair said.

JCL had always performed well at the state competition, and this year was no different. The JCL came in second in the overall Sweepstakes award (determined by combining points throughout the entire competition) but were able to beat their nemesis, Crown Point, by one point in Delegate Spirit.

JCL members competed both individually and as a team. Students won ribbons if they placed in the top five or a trophy if they won their individual event.

William Ngo (11) won multiple ribbons, as well as a trophy, for his individual graphic art submissions, and the novice and intermediate level certamen teams won their divisions.

As a team, JCL earned first places for its local publication, spirit (a title they were defending from the previous year) and community service project. Earlier in the year, the club had gone to Lutheran Children's Hospital to read and perform mythology stories for patients. The group placed second in the publicity category, finishing with over 10,000 points.

"I felt like State really brought the club closer together and made us all feel like a family," JCL co-council Alicia Cueller (11) said.

Regardless of whether the students won, Adair was proud of their efforts.

"As with any competition, academic or athletic, the goal is about a passion for the organization's goals and doing one's best," Adair said.

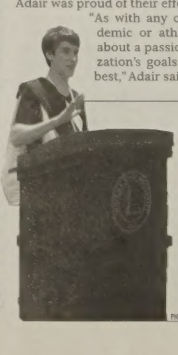


PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

State was not the final level of competition for many members though. Several students have chosen to attend the National Convention in Las Vegas this summer. The Indiana JCL leader Dennis Bartlow describes the national convention as "State Convention on steroids."

"I have participated every year because I've made so many friends from it. The people are lively and fun to be around," Cueller said, "I made lifelong friendships in JCL."

LATIN GAMES

Latin club members attended a two-day competition at Indiana State University in Terre Haute to compete against schools throughout the entire state. At the convention, students competed in graphic arts, creative arts and academic testing to gain points, which would be accumulated toward the Sweepstakes Award, an overall category. Along with contests, the enthusiastic students took part in a "Rent-a-Roman Auction." Having been purchased by another student, Chase Carter (9) was ordered by his master to get on stage and perform a song.

SPORTS

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

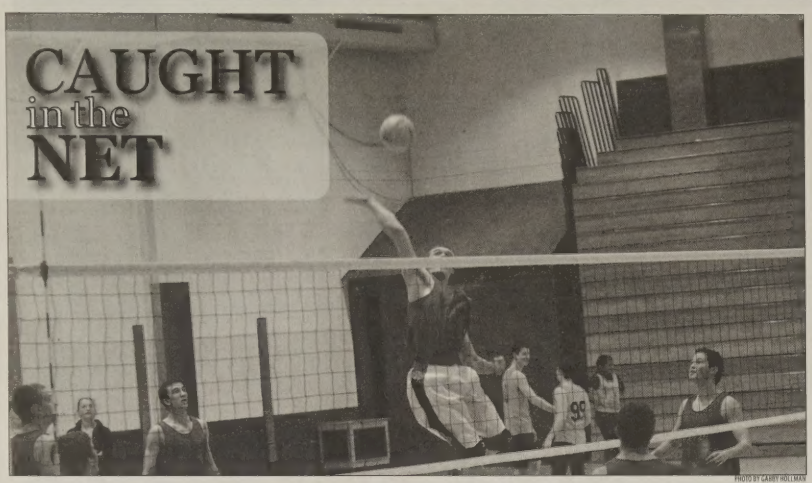


PHOTO BY GABBY HOLLMAN

Notorious Netters surpasses popularity expectations, level of competition

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

The popularity of the second annual Notorious Netters volleyball tournament skyrocketed exponentially this year, drawing in crowds of fans and determined players looking for a chance at the ultimate victory.

The basic dynamic of each game mimics that of regular volleyball, with the same rules and scoring up to 25.

"Notorious Netters is such a fun event to have during spirit week," student government member Jenny Redden (11) said. "Everyone gets so excited for it, and typically those people who participate in it also want to attend Morp, so it's a good selling point."

The spinoff activity of Dirty Duckers put on by Student Government has created a legacy of its own in Just Because week that leaves students in an intense anticipation all year. Though only junior and senior boys can compete in Notorious Netters, the event attracts all grades to witness the friendly yet competitive rivalries.

The turnout of the event practically doubled from its attendance last year, and in some ways has outshined the original reputation of its predecessor Dirty Duckers.

"I think it will be (more popular than Dirty Duckers) if it isn't already. Especially with our team next year going to be hungry for the championship after being upset by the seniors this year," Ryan Cotter (11) said.

Expectations were high and practically set in stone, but no one anticipated underdog, Team 2, to take home the championship title.

"Dream Team and El Equipo were the clear favorites to win because they were strong teams and also prepared quite a bit for the tournament. Every single team underestimated our ability," Chris Anderson (12) said. "I was overwhelmed with excitement when we won."

> "Notorious Netters is such a fun event to have during spirit week. Everyone gets so excited for it, and typically those people who participate in it also want to attend Morp, so it's a good selling point."
>
> **JENNY REDDEN (11)**
> *Student Government Member*

With a single elimination process, talent and determination were crucial in order to advance to the next round, and every expectation was clearly outdone.

"Of course we wanted to win, but making it fun is the most important aspect of these activities," Anderson said.

Despite the automatic competitive edge that is included in every game, Anderson's team took a more laid back approach than their challengers.

The surprise factor of Team 2's win played quite a role in the excitement of this year's tournament, which left their junior opponents ready to redeem themselves next year.

Unfortunately, the second place team of juniors, the Hobblers, lost to the seniors in the much anticipated championship match. After thriving in all of their games, the first year participants expected nothing less than a win and were dissatisfied with the way the tournament played out.

"It was a tough loss in the last round." Cotter said. "We needed good, solid teamwork to defeat the more competitive teams, and we had it."

After such a long, physically demanding set of games, the team's lone goal was shattered at the last moment.

"Our team was really hoping to be able to win both years of Notorious Netters. Because basically, if you're not first you're last. The Hobblers were assembled to win. Silver is not our gold," Cotter said.

While the Hobblers may have finished with a silver medal, the tournament would certainly be given a gold for this year, with its dramatic increase in popularity.

PHOTOS BY EMILY KAMINSKI

Top: John Geller (12) spikes a ball onto the opponents' court. Far Left: Sam Stone (12) prepares to serve. Left: Seniors Brandon Miller, Landon Rody, Cameron Georgi, Chris Anderson, Scott Espich and Chris Dugan talk with coach Charlotte Neuber (12) before claiming the champion title in the tournament.

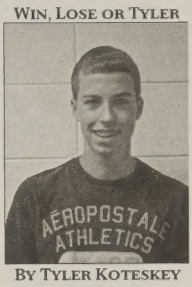
Respect desired by devoted track team

OK, let's get this introduction over with: "I'm Tyler and I'm a cross country and track distance runner." To which an innocent listener (or reader) would most likely respond, "You actually like running?" while mumbling something to himself like "I can't even run from the couch to the kitchen," as if a track meet was another name for an insane asylum.

As Mother Nature works diligently to prove the Punxsutawney groundhog to be the world's worst meteorologist, us track runners have worked for success during the indoor track season, avoiding the treacherous outdoor conditions. Thankfully, I was blessed with the privilege of experiencing this successful indoor season firsthand.

Many of you may be wondering the location of said "indoor" races, since we don't merely run laps upstairs around the wrestling and weights rooms. The varsity team actually travelled throughout the state to facilities at numerous universities including Indiana Wesleyan, IPFW and Trine. This year, in order to qualify for the State indoor meet (also known as Hoosier State Relays), your time (or mark) had to be in the top 24 of the state. Of the 11 events possible, the team was able to qualify in seven events including all of the relays. Just last season, the team only had athletes qualify for the state meet in two events, showing the immense improvement the team had this year.

Win, Lose or Tyler



By Tyler Koteskey
Sports Editor

It was 5:30 a.m. on March 16 when the bus left Homestead for the indoor State meet. As the rest of Fort Wayne was sleeping, the bus trudged south to Troyer Fieldhouse at Indiana Wesleyan University.

The meet started with the 3200 meter run, featuring freshman phenom, Brayden Law (9). Law came into the meet ranked 24th out of the 24 runners in the race, but shocked everyone by finishing 9th with a blistering time of 9:36.79. He was only half a second from reaching the podium.

Now, I'm sure that hundreds of people packed into a single room and forced to run fast may sound a little like Guantanamo Bay, but it wasn't. At a certain location in the field house, the intensity was so high that workers at the meet would stand along the edge of the track and scream at any spectators attempting to cross the track before the event, boxing them out and often throwing elbows in the process.

In our next event, the 4x800 meter relay, we finished 12th (despite being ranked 18th) and beat rival Carroll by one second. The 4x200 relay team also surprised spectators by winning their heat and finishing in 14th (despite being ranked 24th). The 4x400 relay and the distance medley relay teams also surprised themselves by finishing 20th and 13th respectively.

In the outdoor season, much to our dismay, the weather has refused to cooperate as temperatures have rarely surpassed 40 degrees. The first two meets were already cancelled due to inclement weather, and future meets could potentially be cancelled as well. However, one of the disadvantages of being a distance runner is that we often still have to run outside. For instance, today, we ran a 5 mile tempo run (that's a hard run) as the wind gusted at 45 miles per hour.

Now that I've explained the successes and difficulties of this already remarkable season, I hope you have gained a greater knowledge of this otherwise disregarded sport. It's a hard sport, but somebody's got to do it.

March Madness bracket pools spur friendly competition

Tournament tension, basketball excitement increases as students and faculty members predict game outcomes

By Ethan Yde
Writer

While March may drag along for students anticipating spring break, it can bring a friendly and competitive spirit throughout the nation. The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament is brewing in what many are familiar with as March Madness.

March Madness embraces its name through the extreme competition of the most prestigious basketball teams in the country. This year, the No. 1 seeds are Louisville, Indiana, Kansas and Gonzaga; experts project Louisville to take the trophy, as they are the overall number one. Being in Fort Wayne, local aficionados are thrilled that Indiana is a number one seed.

The recent revival of of Indiana University basketball by head coach Tom Crean amazes basketball fans everywhere; some believe that the team still does not have what it takes to win the tournament.

"Indiana's going all the way this year. I know it's their year to win and to continue the legacy that has returned to IU. They have key players like Zeller, Sheehey and Oladipo, giving them more than a chance," Eric Martin (9) said.

To reveal their intelligence on bracketology, students developed friendly leagues to test who knows college basketball the best. Participants submit a bracket and then receive points based on how far the team is in the tournament. One would get more points for guessing a Final Four appearance than a first round win. The highest scorer wins at the end of the tournament. This popular battle between bracket writers can be for money, or simply for a competitive experience of friends.

"A few of my friends and I fill out brackets and score them using the point system that ESPN uses. Then we compete for which bracket does the best. This year I have gotten a few more people in the competition than usual," Austin Miller (11) said.

While it is immensely popular among students, even teachers are getting in on the madness. Teachers participate in brackets and cheer on their favorite teams. There is even an annual bracket competition between faculty members.

"March Madness is my favorite time of the year. The first round and second round games are my favorites because of the sheer number of games available to watch and numerous upsets that seem to occur," Nick Ankenbruck, physical education teacher, said. "Every year I compete in various bracket competitions. To me, they make the tournament more exciting. Since I am a Purdue fan I really won't be following a team. However, I will be rooting for all the Big Ten schools."

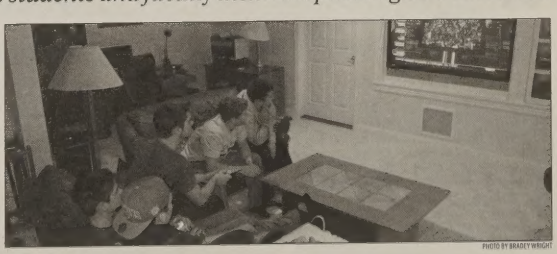


PHOTO BY BRADLY WRIGHT

Seniors Grayson Bastin, Justin Parker, Matt Barbish, Cameron Dark, Connor Houser and Alex Etchison gather to watch March Madness basketball games together.

Though numerous students will certainly be cheering on a specific team, some students may just watch the games. Even the often boring first four games have provided excitement, as Liberty nearly missed a chance at advancing to the second round.

If setting speculations solely on the seed of a team, odds are one will not be dealing with a victorious bracket. Ironically enough, upsets are the norm, such as a No. 15 seed beating a No. 2 seed; never in the history of men's basketball has the highest possible upset occurred.

These shocking wins truly make the tournament what it is. They intensify the games, excite supporting fans and create an overall mindset that any team could be in danger in their next game. For these reasons, March Madness is one the most popular sporting events of the year.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

BOYS' LACROSSE

This year the boys' lacrosse team is returning to improve its shaky scores from last season. With a record of 6-10, the boys lost more games than they won.

While the team did not make it far in last year's postseason, it has won the consolation tournament in 2009 and 2011, and the members of the team hope to return to that position this season.

"We have a very strong team this year and have the potential to be one of the best teams in Indiana."

GRANT CALDWELL (10)
Varsity Lacrosse Player

This year, the team returns with many talented players, including Elliot Sweazey (11), Rikky Stephens (11) and CJ Lewis (10).

One of the team's main goals is to go undefeated during the regular season. According to Jack Render (11), the varsity team hopes to make it into either the top four in the league tournament or the top two in the consolation tournament. The league tournament includes the top 12 teams in the state and the consolation tournament includes the next eight. Because the junior varsity team does not participate in the postseason, it hopes to improve its overall strength on the team.

"We want to have a fun year and improve our skills to be the best that we can," Grant Caldwell (10) said. "We have a very strong team this year and have the potential to be one of the best teams in Indiana."

According to Head Coach John Belote, the team has many strong players who will greatly improve the season.

"We, as a team, will be much improved with greater depth in all positions and senior leadership," Belote said.

-Jessica Tebben

PHOTO BY CATHERINE BLEDSOE

As the varsity boys' lacrosse team practices on the football field, they run shooting drills, giving each player an opportunity to score points.

SOFTBALL

As this year's softball team returns to practices, the members of the team are anticipating a strong year. Last season, the team did well overall during the regular season with a record of 19-10 and finished the NHC with a record of 5-2. The girls made it to the Sectional game, but a controversial call made by the umpire led Huntington North to victory instead.

▶4
The number of returning seniors on the softball team this year.

The team's main goal this season is to come back and win the Sectional title. Along the way, it also hopes to avenge the loss against Huntington North.

"Winning against Huntington North this year would be the sweetest revenge for our team," Bailey Wills (12) said. "Obviously after winning that, we would love to get as far as State."

In order to achieve these goals, the team is working hard during practices and keeping open communication within the team. Many members of the team have also been conditioning throughout the winter in order to prepare for the upcoming season.

"Our defense and pitching should keep us in most games," Head Coach Tom Clagg said. "We just need to score more runs.

According to Coach Clagg, there are many strong players on the team, and he is looking to see much improvement during the course of the season.

Tori Strelec (12) would like to see the team win it all during the postseason. In order to do this, she believes that the whole team has to get the most out of every practice and always give 100 percent.

"As a senior and knowing this will be my last season, I want to win the last game I play," Strelec said. "In order to do that we have to win the State championship."

-Jessica Tebben

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Kendra Addis (10) practices her fielding skills during an indoor practice.

BASEBALL

With an outstanding previous season behind the baseball team and a previous record of 21-3, the team has a lot to look forward to this season.

"We are looking forward to getting started this year with a lot of talented new guys stepping into key roles for us this season," Coach Nick Byall said. "There will be a lot of opportunities for guys to work themselves into contributing roles for us on offense, on defense and on the mound."

The players are motivated by similar goals.

"We hope to win conference and actually win sectionals this year and go on," Joe Ault (11) said. "We lost a lot of seniors so we will need other people to step up."

▶5
number of years since the baseball team has competed in the state championship game

The upperclassmen believe they are up to the challenge.

"I believe we have a good group coming in to fill the roles of the previous class," Nick Denice (12) said. "We learned a lot from a great group of guys and I expect the transition to go smoothly."

Although losing an abundance of their senior players, the team is still reaching for the same goals as last year.

"After losing 10 seniors from last year's team, there will be a great opportunity for guys to prove that they can fill those key leadership roles," Byall said.

With many of its star senior players gone and an impressive previous season under its belt, the baseball team has much to expect out of the 2013 season and is ready for any challenges that come its way.

"I believe we will surprise a lot of people. I am very excited and look forward to this season," Denice said.

-Sophia Brown

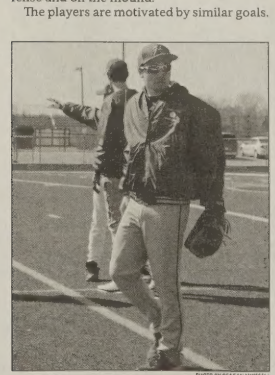


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Ben Lemke (11) awaits a throw from a teammate during a practice on the football field.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

The girls' lacrosse team enters this season optimistic and ecstatic. Despite a difficult season last year, with a much more experienced team, the players now hope to improve tremendously.

One of the most difficult aspects of the season is the challenging schedule the Spartans must endure as they face some of the top teams in the state. The team often travels to the Indianapolis area to compete against very talented lacrosse programs. This year, it will face 7 of the top 10 teams in the state.

"Being the only girls team in Fort Wayne, I would say we play a particularly tough schedule compared to past season," Caitlin Mulhall (12) said. "We have to travel a lot to play so that can be rough, especially with weather like Indiana's."

"I'm really looking forward to our senior night because as a senior it'll be such a moment with all these girls I've been playing with for so long."

CAITLIN MULHALL (12)
Lacrosse Player

PHOTO BY CATHERINE BLEDSOE

The varsity girls' lacrosse team hold sticks in the air to get pumped up before a game.

As of yet, the Spartans have already faced Heritage Christian, the number 1 ranked team in the state, falling short with a 17-7 loss.

However, the team still returns many talented members of last year's team including Mulhall, Payton Fiedler (12), Abbey Kittaka (11) and Christina Jesse (10).

The Spartans boast several seniors vying for success in their final season on the team.

"This season I am probably most excited about the amount of seniors we have playing," Mulhall said. "I'm really looking forward to our senior night because as a senior it'll be such a moment with all these girls I've been playing with for so long."

-Tyler Koteskey

RUGBY

Looking forward to this season, rugby players anticipate an exhilarating, enjoyable season.

In a little-known, hard-hitting sport, players are working to make a name for themselves among competitive teams in the area.

Like many other sports, the team has had to endure freezing temperatures and immense snow accumulations at practices. Possibly due to these limitations, the team struggled against a tough Warsaw team in its season opener.

One unique aspect of this year's team is that there are many newcomers who have had to learn the various rules and regulations of a complex, difficult sport.

In fact, in its first game of the season, the Spartans only had 3 players from last year's team. Learning proved to be very difficult for some.

"What I like about the team is that the older guys don't have a problem helping the younger ones learn the game when we sometimes struggle a lot," Jack Dugan (10),a newcomer, said.

However, the Spartans still return key players from last year's team that give the team valuable experience and leadership. Some of these players include Seta Raisuni (11), Wyatt Butcher (11), Chad Childers (11) and captain Kam Hladish (12).

"We're much more of a family than a team. We count on each other to have one another's backs."

CHAD CHILDERS (11)
Rugby Player

Childers believes that a major strength of the team is how close everyone is.

"We're much more of a family than a team," Childers said. "We count on each other to have one another's backs."

With this strength, the Spartans hope to succeed and enjoy the season.

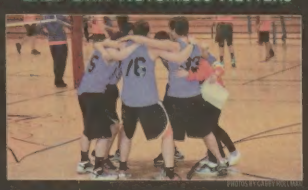
"I'm excited to see how we develop as a team," Childers said. "Also, I'm just excited to play games."

-Tyler Koteskey

Nate Parsons (11) passes the ball backward as other team members attempt to tackle him, while running drills with the team on the practice field.This defensive drill involved the movement of the entire team down the field.

JUST BECAUSE WEEK

MONDAY
Lazy Day/Notorious Netters



One of the senior teams gets pumped up before the Notorious Netters volleyball game.

Just Because Week started off at a comfortable pace as students donned sweatpants, fuzzy socks and footie pajamas for Monday's "comfy day."

For Park Lickliter (12), the spirit day meant sitting through classes in a myriad of cozy garments.

"I just wore some sweatpants, slippers and a really big bathrobe," Lickliter said. "It wasn't too over the top, but it was still kind of funny to look at–especially since it was a pretty feminine robe."

But even though students spent the school day in relaxation and comfort, on Monday night, junior and senior boys stepped out of their comfort zone and onto the volleyball court.

Notorious Netters, a Just Because Week tradition, brings student-formed guys' volleyball teams together to compete for a winning spot. The competition at Notorious Netters is fierce, and, according to Ryan O'Shaughnessy (12), team strategies were helpful in taking down opponents.

"I'd say our main goal was just to get the ball over the net," O'Shaughnessy said. "Get the ball over the net and look stylish doing it."

Style did serve as an integral aspect of Notorious Netters. Many teams sported team uniforms such as bandanas, sweatbands, short-shorts or crazy socks.

Notorious Netters is a fun event for students to either play, coach, or cheer on their friends on the volleyball court. Zach Carlstrom (12), Notorious Netters is not for the faint of heart.

"(If I had to give advice to an underclassman looking to participate) I'd tell him to wait," Carlstrom said. "Wait until you're a man."

TUESDAY
'80s Day/Dirty Duckers

Students donned shoulder pads, leg warmers and side pony tails for 80's day, alluding to past 80s idols like Cyndi Lauper and Ferris Bueller.

"I wore my dad's old fraternity jacket, bright lipstick and tried to make my hair as big as possible," Mallory Mills (12) said. "80s day was great because it was so much fun pretending I lived in a different decade. I even tried to adopt the 80s attitude."

This totally tubular day ended with packed stands and an animated crowd at the junior and senior girls' dodgeball tournament, Dirty Duckers. Dirty Duckers is an event organized by student government.

Different student-created, six-person teams competed tournament style for the title of Dirty Ducker champions with the help of their male coaches. After the grade level champions were determined, the junior and senior victors played each other for the title of overall champion.

This year, Emily Olson (12), Ari Nelson (12), Karah Kiefer (12), Caroline Martin (12), Bailey Wills (12) and Tori Strelec (12) defeated the junior winners and were crowned the overall tournament champions.

"It was really fun being able to play in Dirty Duckers with my friends, and we look forward to hopefully defending our championship title next year," junior Dirty Ducker champion team member Morgan Caudill (11) said.

(Clockwise) Allison Blake (12), Lauren Jennings (10), Gabby Hollman (10), Emma Franklin (12), Mallory Mills (12), Meggen Davis (12) and Molly Ray (12) dress up in leg warmers, bright colors and tights.

WEDNESDAY
Big Bang Theory Day \Variety Show

In adoration of the comedy show The Big Bang theory, students let out their intellectual side on Wednesday. Dressed in collared oxfords, ties and taped glasses, participants showed school spirit while honoring a television favorite.

Although the days were created to unite the student body, those who dressed in the designated attire were given the chance to stand out from the crowd–especially those who remained loyal to their traditional apparel.

"I loved dressing up. My friend and I came up with (our outfits) together," Morgan McKay (10) said. "The most memorable parts of the day were the compliments I got."

To make the day even more memorable, students from all grades displayed their various talents that night in the opening evening of the Variety Show. Although the acts were identical both nights, the performances were subtly different for the entertainers.

"I feel like you can almost say it was two different shows with similar acts," Kaleb Schlatter (12) said. "The Wednesday show was an awesome opportunity for the performers to run through the show in front of a crowd and point out what could have made it even better."

Despite this, both shows continued the tradition of a crowded audience, with both nights reaching the limit for a sold-out show.

"Listening to people yell, clap and laugh is one of the greatest sounds in the world," Schlatter said. "(The crowd) helped boost my confidence and made me enjoy performing all the more."

Whitney Carroll (11) and Mariel Cabe (11) show their school spirit by dressing up as their favorite characters from the television show "The Big Bang Theory."

THURSDAY
Tacky Day

Students geared up in their zaniest prints and craziest color combos for mismatched day.

Allison Blake (12) said her funky clothing choices all came straight from her wardrobe.

"I wore black leggings, a floral dress, an orange striped jacket, one brown UGG boot, a grey sock and a star print Vans-type shoe," Blake said. "I don't really get embarrassed, so I have so much fun dressing up."

However, the most widely-anticipated event on Thursday was the final showing of the Variety Show.

Most performers elected to keep their sets consistent with that of Wednesday night's show; however, the members of Leaving Rockwell distinguished their performance with a rebellious twist.

The band began their cover of the song "The Battle of Hampton Roads" only to be kicked off stage halfway through their show.

> "I don't really get embarrassed, so I have so much fun dressing up."
>
> **ALLISON BLAKE (12)**
> *Spirit Week Participant*

"We weren't particularly surprised that it happened," Leaving Rockwell bassist Adam Breneman (12) said. "Other acts were asked to cut their performances down to 4-5 minutes, so we were expecting to either get the curtain closed or our extension plugs pulled."

Thursday night marked the last Variety Show emcees Chris Robinson (12) and Cameron Dark (12) would host together.

"Cam and I are really good friends and we have the same sense of humor, so it was pretty easy making up material for the show," Robinson said. "(If I had to give advice to the junior emcees,) I would say to not get nervous on stage and just have fun. People will laugh no matter what."

Top: Junior hosts Seta Raisuni and Jenny Redden introduce acts. Bottom: Members of Leaving Rockwell play "Habits" a song by Will Davis.

FRIDAY
Blackout/MORP

To bring Just Because Week to a close, students supported the glow-in-the-dark MORP theme by taking part in the blackout on Friday. These demonstrators of school spirit were involved in the most popular dress-up day of the week.

Although all days had widespread participation, the blackout was by far the most popular. Having had a similar theme at basketball games in attempts to turn the student section an entire color, students were already familiar with how to dress up.

"I think more people participated in the blackout theme because it was easier to dress up for," Morgan Caudill (11) said. "Also, people probably participated in it more because it was the day of MORP."

MORP, a casual dance on the Friday of each year's Just Because week is typically planned with a whimsical theme in mind.

Although its name originates from the backwards word "prom," MORP is ultimately the opposite, as the girls typically ask their dates and attendees wear a common T-shirt. This year, student government members settled on a glow-in-the-dark theme.

To carry out the motif, freshmen members of the club focused on one main decoration. On the Tuesday before the dance, they made a banner stretching across an entire wall reading "MORP" in neon letters.

Later, members splattered the poster with glowing paint. To expose the theme further, the neon T-shirts, which were the tickets into the event, were lit up by black lights on the dance floor.

"(The theme) is simple and something everyone can connect to," Nkiru Ezeakudo (9), freshman president, said. "Also, the glow in the dark shirt added an extra touch."

Students participate in a rave in the middle of the dance floor.

THE SPARTANA

▶NEWS Student Government held highly competitive elections for new officers for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. 1

▶OPINION The state's refusal to pay for AP exams in the humanities and language classes discredits their academic value. 3

▶LIFE All extracurricular radio shows have been canceled, due to a lack of necessary teacher supervision. 3

▶SPORTS The baseball team started the season strong over spring break and looks forward to postseason play and State. 3

▶FEATURE Spring Arts Week showcases student talent at the NHS coffeehouse, art gallery and musical convocation. 4

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Budget cuts affect art department staffing

Veteran teacher accepts vacant art position at Summit Middle School

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Art teacher Cindy Husar hunches over a laptop in order to assisting a student. Husar is heavily involved with the art department and currently teaches ceramics.

BY DARBY COOK
Writer

The art department has experienced major changes within the past year and expects more change to come.

The most significant change has been in its enrollment rate, as fewer students are signing up for art courses.

"This past year the requirements to graduate changed," Sarah Jones, chairperson of the art department, said. "Now, students must take two new classes in the finance and home economics department in order to graduate. That's one less spot for an elective class."

Because of these new graduation requirements, family and consumer science classes experienced a significant increase in numbers.

To deal with the overflow of students, art teacher Cindy Husar received emergency licensing in Family Consumer Sciences during this past summer in order to teach adult roles and responsibilities part-time this year.

Next year she will return to teaching ceramics and jewelry full-time.

To combat falling enrollment rates, the art department is continuing to explore ways to increase student numbers.

"We're looking into teaching dual-credit courses through IPFW and St. Francis," Jones said.

In the near future, students could possibly earn college credit in art history, drawing and jewelry.

Enrollment in art courses for next year is similarly low in numbers to this year, leaving the department unable to support five full-time teachers. However, the retirement of Summit Middle School art teacher Cheryl Lovinger has allowed all five teachers to remain in the SACS district.

"In teaching contracts, there used to be specific contract language regarding seniority that would determine which teachers would be let go first. Now contracts

▶ SEE 'ART DEPARTMENT,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY BRADY WRIGHT

NO 'PAIGN GAIN

Students choose officers

BY PRISCILLA LIN
Writer

With the 2012-2013 school year coming to a close, a time of preparation for next year has begun, starting with the election of new student government officers. Last Friday, seconds before the final bell sounded signifying the end of the school day, the names of the newly elected officers were announced over the speaker system.

As the student body continues to grow, so does interest in student government leadership. However, the significant amount of attention given to this year's election can be attributed to the campaigning rather than the number of candidates running.

"Often, and especially this

▶ SEE 'STUDENT ELECTIONS,' PAGE 2

Golf team debuts new talent

BY ETHAN YDE
Writer

It's springtime, and that means the boys' golf season is back in full swing. After some triumphs in early meets, the boys look forward to the rest of the season in hopes of a successful season.

Making their debut, the golfers played at Stonehedge Golf Course at the Warsaw Invitational. Their opponent, Warsaw, was currently ranked second in the state, but the Spartans were still pushing for a victory.

A new season comes with new goals. Golfers are preparing for the best season possible, by setting individual and team goals. The golfers continue work toward low scores to obtain high ranks. This year's roster consist of golfers from all grades distributed between a varsity and junior varsity team.

"Being part of a strong freshman class, my individual goals are set very high," T.J. Bishop (9) said. "I want to help the team by working

▶ SEE 'GOLF,' PAGE 2

Girls' tennis team looks forward to strong season

Senior-led team perseveres despite unexpected weather delays, cancellations

BY HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

In order to continue a fair, successful tennis program, the girls' team undergoes a distinct tryout process that leaves the players equipped for the upcoming season. The process of picking teams every year consists of much more than just a few tryouts, cuts and a final list of the players. The tennis team goes through a series of matches in order to accurately rank its players, which marks a vital role in the preparation for the following spring.

"As an underclassman, the tryout process was pretty intimidating and like nothing I had seen before," Courtney Rawlinson (11) said. "Now that I have been through it multiple times, I realize that it is necessary, and the challenge of it prepares us in a way that a traditional tryout couldn't."

> "As an underclassmen, the tryout process was pretty intimidating and like nothing I had seen before."
>
> **Courtney Rawlinson (11)**
> *Tennis Team Member*

Understandably, the try out development begins at the start of each season. All year during practices and matches, both the JV and varsity coaches observe the girls' abilities and potential. Once the season comes to an end and tryouts are initiated, the team is split up into pods based on player rankings in the prior season. Over the course of a week, there are challenges within each group to determine each player's new position.

"I think the challenge process keeps things competitive, and it's a

▶ SEE 'TENNIS,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Kelsey Vessels (12) prepares to return the ball with a forehand shot in the girls' tennis match against Concordia. Vessels is one of the team's top singles players.

BRIEFS

ECA TESTING
Due to ECA testing, schedules will be altered from May 7 to May 14. Posters of the altered schedules will be posted throughout the school.

SUMMER PE CLASS
Summer PE classes will be offered to students again this year, but will not start until June 6. In addition to traditional sports, students will take field trips involving golfing, bowling and other activities. Forms are available at the door's office or from any PE or health teacher.

Student awarded 1st place in national essay contest

Jamie Baer (12) receives scholarship for senior composition essay

BY TESSA LUTZ
Writer

After years of entering, a Homestead student has won the Profiles in Courage Essay Contest held annually by the John F. Kennedy Library. Jamie Baer (12) is the 2013 national winner, and Tori Barnard (12) was a top ten finalist. Since beginning to enter this contest in 2007, students in AP Language and Composition have consistently fared well in the competition.

"We've had a top ten every year we have entered, except one odd year," Connie Christophersen, English department head and AP Language and Composition teacher said. "Esther Kohn is the education director at the John F. Kennedy library and said that Homestead has had more success than any school in the country.'"

The Profiles in Courage Essay Contest is inspired by its namesake book, "Profiles in Courage," in which John F. Kennedy recounts the stories of eight U.S. Senators who jeopardized their careers by taking unpopular positions and letting altruism and integrity prevail above all.

Along with being a scholarship opportunity, the essay aligns well with the state standards for AP Language and Composition.

"The essay provides a real audience beyond the teacher and is challenging as well as requiring critical thinking," Christophersen said.

Baer will receive $10,000 for placing first in the contest.

"She will receive $5,000 to do with whatever she wants, matched by the John Hancock Financial to be contributed to a college savings plan," Christophersen said.

Profiles in Courage is an essay contest in which students from all 50 states and United States citizens abroad are asked to submit a paper about a politician who has committed an act of courage and may haye even risked re-election.

Baer wrote about Roy McDonald, a New York republican state senator who voted in favor of the Marriage Equality Act of 2011.

▶ SEE 'ESSAY CONTEST,' PAGE 2

ON THE RECORD

At the award ceremony in Boston, Baer met notable celebrities including David Letterman, Joe Kennedy and Tony Bennett. Baer plans to use her scholarship money at Indiana University where she will enter in the fall to study business.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

▶ART DEPARTMENT CONTINUED FROM 1

don't contain that language, and it becomes a seemingly impossible decision to choose who should be let go," Jones said.

Veteran art teacher Mike Schmid agreed to take the opening at Summit.

"Mr. Schmid graciously stepped up to the plate by volunteering for the Summit position," Jones said.

Though the circumstances are not ideal, Schmid is excited for his new experiences at Summit.

"It's another opportunity," Schmid said. "I decided to volunteer because I believe it's the best thing for the art department and for myself personally. It's a good fit for me."

Though he is excited, he admits he will miss Homestead.

"It's been an absolute joy," Schmid said. "The kids make my job so much fun. I'm 60 now, and I could have retired a long time ago, but I continue working because I love what I do. I get to come to school and laugh all day, sometimes at people and sometimes with them."

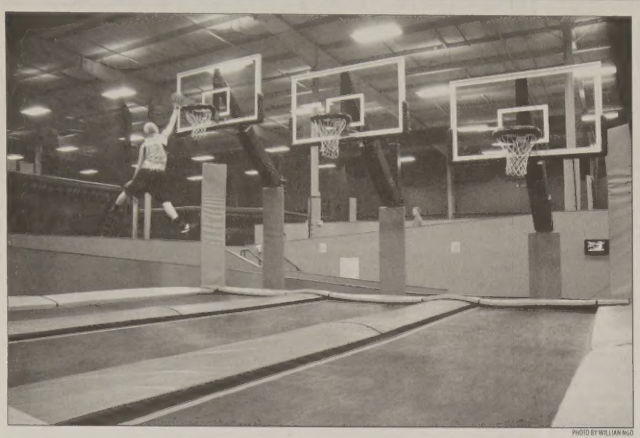

PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

Students search for work

Summer jobs provide necessary experience, money

BY ALLIE NELSON
Writer

While most students view summer simply as a break from school, others see it as an opportunity. As the school year nears itsll end, those determined to make use of the time away from early wake-ups and late-night studying begin their job quest for the season.

Whether the opening is in the realm of retail, food or entertainment, students gain working experience while earning an income. A highly sought position for this summer is working for the future Sky Zone facility downtown that will open in May.

The indoor trampoline park offers 25,000 square feet and will contain free jumping area along with basketball courts, dodgeball courts and space for fitness classes. Since the branch is not yet open and the franchise offers a demand for workers, applications are needed. Also, the facility is appealing to students and employees are in the most demand for the summer.

"I was out north one day and passed the building that Sky Zone was going to be located in, and I asked my younger brother what it was," Stephen Getz (10), Sky Zone applicant, said. "He said that he had been to the one in Indy and that it was basically a trampoline fun house. I then began researching it and looked it up on Facebook and received information and found out this place looked pretty cool."

For many students, this summer will be the first time they apply for a job.

"The application process was fairly easy," Getz said. "You were asked to download an application, fill it out and then return it at the job fair where they held a mini interview. They asked basic questions like 'What makes you qualified?' or 'Why work at Sky Zone?'"

After being hired for the position, the future employees have certain responsibilities before they begin work due to child labor laws restricting work hours.

"Once hired, the employer should give the student an intent to employ form," Lashanda Gates, guidance counselor, said. "That form is brought to Mrs. Fitt (in student services), and she will then issue a work permit."

> "If you can manage being a good student, then I don't see why a few hours a week would hurt a student looking to earn money."
>
> **Lashanda Gates**
> *Guidance Counselor*

While most searching is focused only on positions during the summer, a portion of working students are employed year round or begin working before the school year has fully come to a halt. Often times, these more permanent positions begin with summer employment.

"I had been thinking about finding a summer job before my senior year and was looking at a few places," Emily Muha (12), Massage Envy Sales Associate, said. "My mom had gone in for a massage and heard the manager mention that they were looking for a part-time position. So I applied because it was a nice place to work with very little stress and the hours were flexible if necessary."

The benefits of working year round are helpful for students in saving for college fees or those in need of a steady income; however, the results of balancing a work schedule with the school day and its responsibilities are sometimes negatively represented through performance in class.

"The advice I would give students is to make sure they are where they should be academically before adding a job to their life," Gates said. "If you can manage being a good student, then I don't see why a few hours a week would hurt a student looking to earn money."

The benefits of working extend beyond the biweekly paychecks. Any skills and experience gained will become an advantage to those who are familiar with the employment process in the future.

"I think that having a job in high school will give me some skills that I can use when I get a job after college," Muha said. "I now have much stronger computer skills than before and have experience in customer service. Having job experience now will make applying for jobs easier later."

Above: A customer partipates in a popular Sky Zone activity: dunking a basketball with use of a trampoline. The arrival of a Sky Zone indoor trampoline park in Fort Wayne has provided students with job opportunities. Sky Zone allows students to work in an environment differing from most teenage jobs, such as fast food restaurants.

▶TENNIS CONTINUED FROM 1

good indicator on where people play on the team," Kelsey Vessels (12) said.

Coaches look for strong players who can keep the points going and have good strokes, but it is rare for players to not obtain a spot on the team. However, advancing from one of the three JV teams to varsity has proven itself to be very difficult.

"It is really hard for the incoming people to prove themselves, because the coaches already have an idea of who is good enough," Rawlinson said.

The JV team consists of three subteams: white, gold and blue. White includes beginning players, which are mostly freshmen, and the other teams have participants from all grades.

As for this year's season, teams are established, and the players are collectively preparing for upcoming matches. With the recent weather being a downfall, the girls find it difficult to keep a schedule set in stone, but necessary adjustments are being made.

"The recent practice delays have actually made us more eager to get out on the court and compete," Shannon Nycum (11) said.

Top ranked players of this season include Vessels, Hanita Epstein (12) and Allison Overlander (12). With the help of these leading veterans, upcoming frontrunners Andrea Stephens (11) and Jenay Andrews (10) will be key assets underneath the seniors.

"I think our team will be strong this year," Vessels said. "We did not lose any seniors on varsity, and many of the other teams in our area did. I think we are strong."

Moreover, with each coach having an immense impact on the teams' success, some major changes will be issued for the remainder of this season. Recently, JV Coach Brooke Haifley stepped down from her position, leaving Head Coach Jim Shull to take over until a replacement is found.

"We are all nervous, because we really like Mrs. Haifley," Rawlinson said. "Things will change drastically during practices and matches, because she is the coach for all three JV teams."

Despite the sudden changes, the girls' team is confident it can overcome any apprehensions.

▶ STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUED FROM 1

year, sophomores and juniors campaign a lot because they want to have the opportunity to assist in planning significant events like Prom," Courtney DelaCuesta (11), student government secretary and overseer of peer voting, said. "As people get older, they want to get more involved. As they get more involved, their friends become more involved as well."

While many students adhered to the traditional ways of campaigning, littering the halls with colorful signs and establishing catchy slogans, others utilized the power of technology in order to spread the word. Megan Cater (11), the elected 2013-14 senior class president, relied on social networking sites along with the help of friends in order to secure the majority vote of the junior class.

"With the help of my fellow student government members, I campaigned through word of mouth," Cater said. "I personally do not have a Twitter, but other students tweeted about me and really helped me win."

Along with allowing candidates to reach a broader audience, networking sites like Facebook and Twitter also allowed students not running for office to actively participate in the election process, making this election one marked by strong peer influence and advocacy.

"This year's election was intense," Cater said. "In the past, students were not as involved as they were this year. Through Twitter and Facebook, people were able to actively engage in the campaigning process."

While Cater witnessed the ferocity displayed during the campaigns first hand, both teachers and students noticed the intensity of this year's election and its subsequent campaigning seemed to be significantly higher than those of years past.

"Many of the candidates running have been a part of student government in the past and they wanted to step up into more leadership roles," Stephanie Wiley, student government adviser, said. "There were a lot of qualified candidates running this year, and they each knew that if they were going to win they would have to get out and make themselves more known."

Despite the effort expended through campaigning, the paperwork alone required in order to run for a student government position can be as lengthy as it is strenuous. Students must first fill out a packet indicating what position they wish to run for. Inside of the packet, students find blank sheet requiring them to receive from 50 to 100 signatures along with four to six teacher recommendations, depending on the position for which they are applying. Once they turn in the packet, students must campaign in order to secure the votes of their peers. In the wake of the intensity and competitiveness that resulted from the recent election, student government members are already expressing hope and excitement for the 2013-2014 school year.

"I can't wait to plan senior activities day and the Homecoming Dance," Cater said. "I look forward to working with rest of the senior officers and representatives to make the next year a year to remember."

▶GOLF CONTINUED FROM 1

hard and hopefully making varsity. As for the team, I think we can make it to State this year."

The new athletes are highly experienced, and many believe they are already the most talented class in the golf team. It is a surprise to have such a large class, and it will benefit the team and in years to come. Building up this class is important to the coach and all of the upperclassmen.

"This season, I'm really looking forward to the Homestead Invite because I really feel the varsity team can post good scores," Gunnar Smith (12) said.

Smith, Chris Eigner (10) and Grant Jagger (11) all return from last year's varsity team that advanced to Regionals. These strong golfers have hopes of leading the team far into the postseason and possibly to the State finals, a place they had advanced to in 2011.

"I hope that the team can make State this season. We have a strong varsity team, and I think we have what it takes," Smith said.

The team will be golfing at a wide array of courses. This variety includes local courses like Chestnut Hills Golf Course, West Bridgewater Golf Course and the team's home Orchard Ridge Golf Course. Naturally, at the Homestead Invite or at any championship that takes place there, the team will have a home course advantage - meaning it will know the course better than any other team. The team will face a number of competitive opponents including Huntington North, Carroll and Bellmont.

"One of my favorite parts about golf is being able to experience each new course and find what they have to offer," Jake Wolfcale (9) said.

Practices often last three and a half hours every school day after school, an arduous workload for the golfers. In addition to these practices, the golfers compete in at least one invitational every week. The boys' golf team requires hard work and dedication, characteristics that pay off in the long run. With perseverance, it aims to finish in the top three at every invitational, a difficult goal against tough competition.

"I can't wait to advance further than Sectionals to compete in large championships," Wolfcale said.

▶ ESSAY CONTEST CONTINUED FROM 1

"He was not re-elected in the next election because his constituents disagreed with his decision to support same sex marriage," Baer said.

Before deciding on an essay topic, Baer did some research.

"I called my cousin Jason who is an attorney in New York City and I asked him for suggestions," Baer said.

One of the first things Christophersen tells her students when they don't know who to pick is to talk to people, family, friends, someone who knows about politics and current events to generate ideas and strong conversation.

"Pick a politician that you not only feel passionate about what they did, but also one that really demonstrated JFK's idea of political courage," Baer said.

Christophersen and Baer each found the selection process to be a very important aspect to the project.

> "I'm just so happy that I could produce something that was appreciated by people I respect so much."
>
> **Jamie Baer (12)**
> *Essay Contest Winner*

"It's not just the quality of writing," Baer said. " It's the content. I remember I wrote the first draft basically in one night the night before it was due. I worked very intensely that night."

Despite working diligently to improve her final draft, Baer did not expect her essay to win against thousands of competitors.

"I was shocked," Baer said. "I wasn't expecting it at all. I was so honored. I'm just so happy that I could produce something that was appreciated by people I respect so much."

The Kennedy Foundation paid for Baer, her parents and Christophersen to visit Boston for her the award ceremony.

"I'm most looking forward to meeting Caroline Kennedy because I respect her so much," Baer said.

Caroline Kennedy is one of the many judges who have read Baer's essay. Other judges of the contest were Lindsey Graham, Olympia Snowe and Christopher Dodd.

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Beauty pageant queen signs modeling contract

Tianna Schuerman (11) joins Salome Photography, fashion agency for her senior year

BY SHELBY BRADLEY

Tiana Schuerman (11) is not your typical beauty pageant contestant. Not only was she the recent winner of the Miss Flame Fort Wayne beauty pageant but she was also selected as a representative of Fort Wayne in a national model search that has the potential to launch a serious professional modeling career for her. The Spartana caught up with Schuerman to learn more about her recent achievements.

Spartana: What is the Miss Flame Beauty pageant?

Schuerman: The Miss Flame Beauty Pageant is a pageant for members of Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association (IVFA).

Spartana: How and why did you get involved with it?

Schuerman: I got involved because my dad is a full time firefighter and my mom is a volunteer firefighter, and I've always wanted to get involved with this type of thing. This was my step into that door.

Spartana: What was appealing about this pageant to you that made you want to come back for the third time?

Schuerman: I've always loved getting to know new people and making new friends, and this pageant gave me the opportunity to do that. The Miss Flame Beauty Pageant is more than just a pageant. It gives me the opportunity to meet new people I would never have had the chance to meet before and the opportunity to volunteer for various fire departments that I have grown up around.

Spartana: How else is the Miss Flame Beauty Pageant different from other pageants?

Schuerman: When most people think of beauty pageants, they think of "Toddlers and Tiaras" and the big hair and bedazzled dresses. This pageant focuses more on personality and volunteer services. We do have the fancy dresses and high heels, but Miss Flame is mainly there to support volunteer firefighters around Indiana.

Spartana: Were you surprised that you won?

Schuerman: For my district (District 6), I was surprised, because there were other girls that seemed equally able to win.

Spartana: What were the prizes in the pageant?

Schuerman: There are multiple chances for any of the Miss Flame contestants to receive scholarships.

Spartana: How much are the scholarships for, and what college do you think you will use your scholarship for?

Schuerman: The scholarships vary from 500 to 1,000 dollars. There have been multiple schools that I've looked at, but I haven't decided on a specific school.

Spartana: When you do decide what college to go to, what do you think you might major in?

Schuerman: I plan on majoring in Speech Pathology and minoring in Spanish.

Spartana: Why?

Schuerman: I love working with kids and plan on working with special needs kids as a career. I love teaching and watching kids discover something new that they can accomplish. I plan on minoring in Spanish, because I have already put five years into studying it and love learning the language.

Spartana: How were you judged in the pageant?

Schuerman: The pageant is three days long and has a closed interview with the judges and at another time we answer a random question in front of the audience and the judges. The judges also receive a paper that we must fill out about our extracurricular activities, volunteer work and anything else we write down.

Spartana: This isn't the only big thing to happen to you recently. You were recently accepted into the Salome Photography modeling agency. How did this come about?

Schuerman: I saw that some of my friends had signed up for a modeling opportunity on Facebook and decided to check it out. It was a process, but I was so glad that I was given the opportunity.

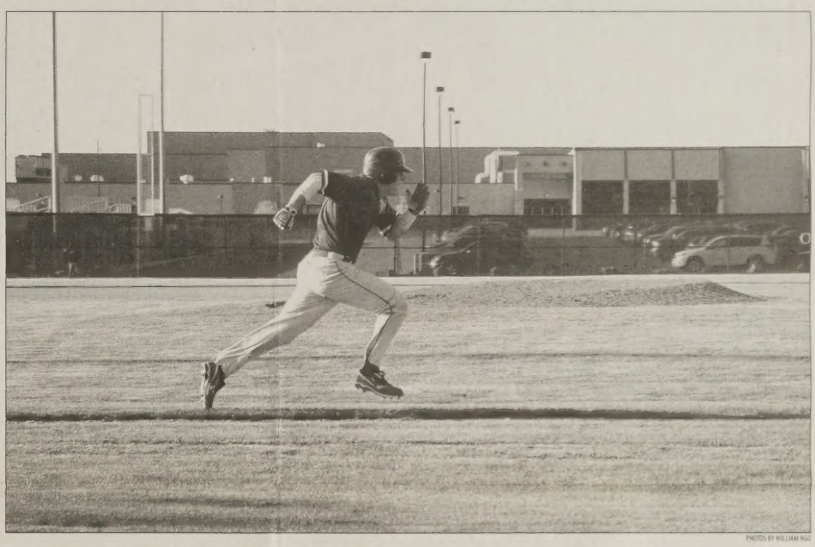
Spartana: What did you get by signing with Salome, and have you gotten any modeling gigs yet?

Schuerman: A group of girls from around Northeast Indiana were chosen as Salome's model team. We are doing a group photo shoot with her (Salome) and then individual sessions. By being a part of her team we get to participate in National Seniors Ignite (an annual photography contest that studios across the nation enter. This year it will be held in San Diego.) Salome would send our photos to this national model search, and we would be given the chance to become a national senior model.

-Colby Shoup

WALK *IT* OUT

Baseball team's dedication leads itself to games over break, works for spot at State



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM HUO

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

Instead of travelling cross country to a tropical destination, the baseball team packed up its equipment and headed to Evansville for a tournament over spring break.

"I think going on spring break with the team helps build chemistry," Matt Volz (12) said. "If playing the sport we love forces us to not travel with our friends on spring break, then so be it."

Prior to traveling to Evansville, the team played two games in Noblesville. As this was its first time playing outdoors this season, the team struggled with its consistency and focus. Fortunately, the boys took advantage of a second chance to redeem themselves emerging with two victories in Evansville just a few days later.

"We practiced everything and anything that could have happened. Mentality is a huge part of baseball, and the less thinking a player has to do, the better off he will be," Volz said. "Many of our practices were repetitive so that in a game we would know what to do and not have to think about it."

Regrettably, the weather in Evansville put a damper on the team's attitude, and after its losses in Noblesville, the group felt an even stronger desire to prove itself. After hours of travel, the players prepared for their first game in Boonville against Boonville High School. Apprehensions were set aside, and both teams stood ready to compete. The game was a stalemate until the bats finally came around, and the team advanced with three runs of the board. It held Boonville to two runs for the remainder of the game and came out with a win.

"We had to shake off some early season cobwebs, but we found some way to win," Brad Hartman (12) said.

The following day, the players traveled to Mount Vernon High School. Henceforth, the team was much more concentrated come game time. The bats came alive early in the game, putting the athletes in the lead from the very beginning. After a few defensive lapses, Mount Vernon recovered from the deficit for a short period of time. Eventually, the team broke out of the standstill and came back to score five more points. From then on, the team's relief pitchers entered the game and threw enough strikes to restrain Mount Vernon from gaining any runs. The end score remained 7-2, and the players walked away with another victory.

"We went down with a mission to score runs and cut down on the errors," Tyler Zimske (11) said. "We got the job done."

Later in the week, the team played Carson City from Michigan at the Indiana Tech field. The athletes took their mistakes from the previous games and channeled them into strict motivation, causing them to dominate in both of their games on Friday and Saturday.

"Although we're back to winning ball games, there is still a lot of work to be done," Zimske said.

Now that the first few games and tournaments are a wrap, the team is determined to let go of its initial struggles and mimic the successes of previous years.

"Our team goal is winning State, and we will not settle for less. We have a lot to prove comparing to last year, but I have a strong feeling about this team and the distance we can go," Volz said. "As an individual, I can only hope that the work I put in helps the team get better.

In prospect, this season's team is anticipating its game against Huntington North to be one of the most challenging, as Huntington North is a generally well-suited opponent. Thereafter, the playoffs will be a main focus in order to achieve the ultimate goal.

"(In the postseason) every team is on their A-game because it is win or go home," Volz said. "If we aren't focused then we won't have success."

Above: Tyler Zimske (11) streaks down the first base line in order to make it to first base in order to avoid an out from the opposing team.
Left: Starting pitcher Josh Thompson (12) prepares his windup to pitch a curve ball to an opponent in Tuesday's game against Carroll. Thompson is an integral player on the Varsity baseball team, especially during his final season following four years of participation, often pitching several innings a game.

Student broadcasts receive uncertain cancellation

Radio show awaits news from administration about whether 91.1 FM will be able to continue

By Ryan Boylan
News Editor

Since March 15, all afterschool radio broadcasting has been on an indefinite suspension due to the evident liability in leaving students unsupervised on school grounds.

The change in policy precipitated when a member of the administration accosted Matt Hamilton (10) and Colby Shoup (10), hosts of The Entertainment Interruption on The Point 91.1 FM, after seeing another member of the radio program walking through the hallways after school and ascertaining that the show had been broadcasting without faculty supervision.

The two were not violating any previously existing school policy. The event facilitated an intradepartmental realization that, because the radio department has grown unprecedentedly over the past decade, it necessitates a supervisor before afterschool programs become overwhelmingly unmanageable.

However, unless the radio department can find a volunteer to monitor students when radio and television instructor Adam Schenkel is absent, the school may soon begin to lose one of its most prominent outlets for student expression and its only medium of sports broadcasting.

"I think the biggest response will be when people find out we won't be broadcasting sports," Schenkel said. "This all happened after basketball season finished, but now that baseball is here, we have been unable to broadcast any of their games yet. The majority of (those who have complained) are parents or grandparents, but these broadcasts do bring in a lot of listeners."

Some students fear that this potential loss will detract from the legitimacy of The Point and reduce its relevant classes to filler electives for students without any interest in communications or mass media.

"Right now I'm basically writing a letter to the administration pleading for them to find some temporary and permanent solutions for afterschool radio programs," Kaleb Schlatter (12), co-host of The Sunshine Boys on The Point, said. "These afterschool shows are what mean the most to the guys in Mr. Schenkel's classes, and if the administration takes away that, the program is going to lose a lot of interest until it won't make any sense to have a program at all."

Others think that, given the station's history of respect for school rules and the autonomy granted to its students, the administration should not make the hasty decision to close the broadcasting studio after classes.

"Students most heavily involved with radio, along with Mr. Schenkel, should sit down with the administration and discuss the matter at hand and also what happens next," Hamilton said. "Only then should a decision be made."

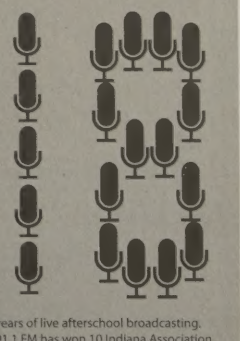
However, this situation is more complex than the typical feud between a school administration and the departments under its jurisdiction.

"I don't think there is a battle ongoing between the students and administration," Schenkel said. "The station has been around since 1995 and times are different now. Even in my tenure, the need for supervision is different. The kids who have afterschool shows don't care if there is supervision or not; they just want to be able to get back on the air. It's 2013, and administration has decided that supervision is needed at all times. I don't think that's a bad idea."

Though neither students nor administrators want to see the radio station's future thwarted, but the final decision on the subject will affect some more than it will others.

"I've been involved in radio for almost two years now, and it's made a tremendous impact on my life," Hamilton said. "Without it, I'm not sure what I'd do."

WHY SO SIRIUS?



years of live afterschool broadcasting. 91.1 FM has won 10 Indiana Association of School Broadcasters awards in its past.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM NGO

Above: Christian Meintel (12) examines the ceramic pieces of the pottery display on the opening evening of the gallery.

THE CRAFT OF Creativity

Creative minds showcase talent throughout week dedicated to art

By William Ngo
Writer

Among the grades and exams, Spring Arts Week is a time for students to showcase their artistic abilities, bringing the student body together for a display of unmatched talents. This celebration has highlighted the handful of young artists in the school for over 15 years.

Java Jubilee

The week began with the NHS Coffeehouse, hosted by the art department and National Honor Society. This event offered a relaxing evening of musical performances and student art displays.

Attendees were given the chance to channel their inner creativity by drawing on the paper-covered tables placed near the stage. Upon walking into the art gallery, a column plastered with blank paper stood next to a card asking, "What brings you joy?" Individuals who had an answer to that question were able to write it, eventually filling up the entire canvas with sources of positivity and delight.

Hosts Ryan Boylan (12) and Kaleb Schlatter (12) charmed the crowd with their amiable personalities and introduced the talented set of student acts.

"It was a joy to interact with a fun audience, make performers look good and, of course, hang out with my best pal," Schlatter said.

Student musicians took over the night with their acoustic sets, and several sang original compositions. Performers included Eesha Bemra (10), Monica Dollive (12), Christina Jesse (10), Alec Ritter (12), Nari Ro (10) and Leaving Rockwell. Former English teacher Stephen Clough made a special musical appearance as well.

Exhibiting Expression

Certain art pieces were available for purchase, allowing spectators to show the ultimate sign of admiration.

The art gallery was open to the school for student and faculty viewing, allowing students to commend the works of their fellow gifted peers. Everyone was encouraged to vote for their favorite 2-D, 3-D, Film and Photography artworks. Further awarded within the school, each administrator had the honor of selecting one piece he or she connected with most.

PHOTO BY KEAGAN MIKESELL

One of the few students who received a Principal's Choice Award was Emily Spatt (11). Spatt had shined with her creations earlier in the year, earning herself a Scholastics Gold Key and Honorable Mention. She explained her artworks as captured moments in their prime time.

"Spring Arts Week brings together like-minded people and creates a fun space to show student work," Spatt said. "It's cool to see what others have been doing."

The gallery included over 800 pieces of individual artwork, thus titling it as the largest showing in Spring Arts Week history. Pottery, jewelry and origami were just some of the various types of art featured in the show.

"All students can walk through (the gallery) and find something they can appreciate or relate to," Mike Schmid, art teacher, said. "It offers all students an opportunity to be inspired and to inspire."

> "I think Spring Arts Week brings together like-minded people and creates a fun space to show student work. It's cool to see what other classes and grades have been doing."
>
> EMILY SPATT (11)
> *Award Winner*

Art Together Now

Singing, dancing and music were all pulled into one spot for the yearly convocation performing arts event. Show choir, dance, orchestra and color guard shared their talents with the school, each routine ending with applause from the audience to commemorate the teams' respective seasons.

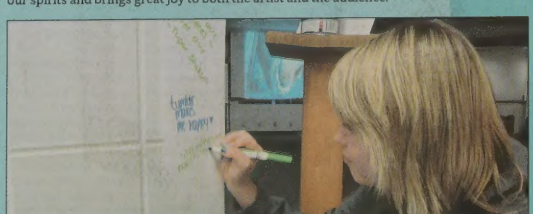
"The convocation allows students who usually wouldn't go to various concerts to see the highlights of all the fine arts groups at once," Michael Bartz (10) said. "It feels good to be a part of (orchestra) making music for the school."

Bartz has been playing music for nearly six years and has been a member of orchestra for about five years during his middle and high school time. He hopes that with Spring Arts Week, the school will be able to increase its appreciation for the performing arts departments.

For the first time ever, the spring musical cast joined the convocation to give an exclusive preview of their show, "Once Upon a Mattress." The new crop of theater geeks gave a praiseworthy performance when they sang a piece from their play.

The Spring Arts Week allowed each artist and performer to spread a message, express emotion and generate beauty. The endowed students never failed to amaze their peers and teachers during the events.

"To me, art provides the opportunity for the ordinary to become extraordinary," art teacher Sarah Jones said. "It revitalizes our spirits and brings great joy to both the artist and the audience."



Top left: Jonny Valdez (12) strums his guitar while performing a song at the Coffee House. Far left: A painting by Alison Mansfield (12) sits among her numerous other pieces of her portfolio featured in the gallery. Right: Allie Ciraza (11) contributes to a signing banner at the opening event. Above right: The orchestra offers a snippet of its prepared music at the convocation.

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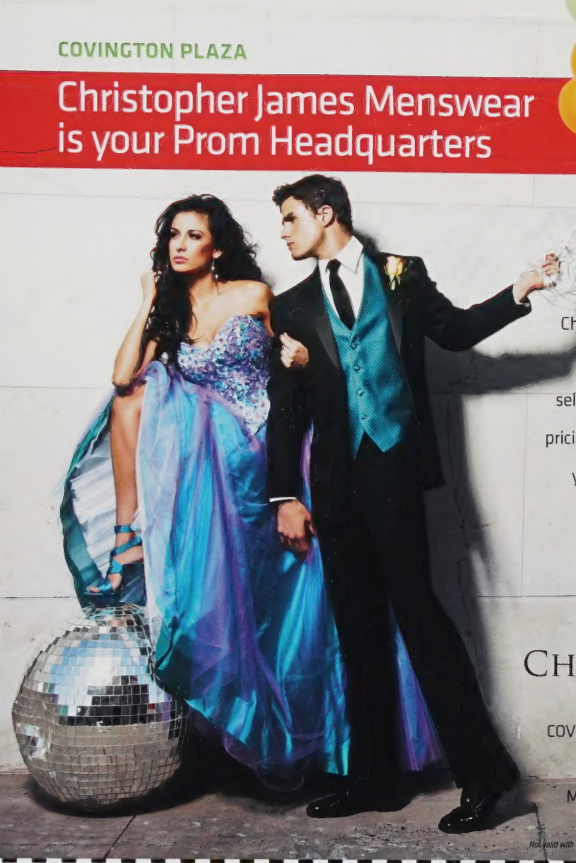

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THE SPARTANA

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Thursday, May 30, 2013 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

A student types in her student ID number, the current form of paying for student lunches.

Finger scanners proposed

By Tessa Lutz
Writer

The use of identification cards in schools is becoming out of date in the growing century of technology. Now, more schools have adopted the idea of using a fingerprint scanning system called identiMetrics. The idea is to speed up lines in places such as the lunch room and library. The main concern of students is that their fingerprints will be scanned and saved, but with the program this is not the case at all.

"The computer software develops a grid of intersection points from the swirls and arcs of the scanned finger," said Jane Sheley, Director of District Food Service.

A binary number, or a series of numbers in which only the digits 0 and 1 are used, is created from a student's unique fingerprint, and at that time the image of the fingerprint is destroyed. For every student, the binary number is encrypted and stored in the software system and can be easily retrieved when the student's finger returns to the scanner.

"This identification process takes under one second to complete," Sheley said. "This is one of the major reasons that I would like to switch to this process. We have over 100 kids at each middle school that forget to bring their cards with them on a daily basis."

The number pads that are used currently are functional but do have kinks to be worked out.

Although Homestead will not be getting the identiMetrics scanners, a replacement computer program has been selected to quicken the pace of the lunch lines.

"Our computer system is so old we can't even get parts of it any longer," said Angie Disher, cafeteria worker at HHS. "Our lunch lines are very slow and some of that is (due to) the old system we are using and kids having to put their numbers in multiple times, and some of that is getting 2,300 kids fed in three hours' time.

With each student that forgets his card, he has to be alpha searched through the system. Hundreds of middle school students forget their cards regularly, and to replace these cards costs the schools a significant amount of money, according to Sheley.

"Since half the students forget where they left their ID cards, it'd get rid of that problem, because it's not like they can lose their fingers easily," Sean Low (11) said.

The system is also beneficial for security purposes. Binary numbers are different for every person and are not as easily copied or discovered as the given school identification number.

"I think it is a positive step forward in technology, so why wouldn't the school want to be a part of it?" Low said.

CORRECTION

Due to an error made by the Spartana staff during an underclassmen learning issue, an inaccuracy regarding the art department was published in the May 10 issue. Contrary to the headline printed, there were no budget cuts made by the art department, but rather an insufficient amount of students enrolled that made it inefficient to keep all art teachers.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Yager announces retirement plans

By Katie Dunlap
Writer

Southwest Allen County Schools Superintendent Dr. Steve Yager announced on May 7 that he will retire effective June 30, 2014 school year.

Yager took over as superintendent in 2009, replacing Brian Smith who became the superintendent of Hamilton Southeastern Schools outside of Indianapolis. Before working for SACS, Yager served as the superintendent of Northwest Allen County Schools for 19 years.

"I will miss the interactions with students, staff, teachers and administrators. I enjoy working with parent groups and with the SACS board," Yager said.

When Yager was hired, one of his primary tasks assigned by the board was to find and employ someone to take the superintendent's role upon his retirement. Dr. Phillip Downs, who worked with Yager for eight years at Northwest Allen before working with him at Southwest Allen, was selected to assume the position. Yager has described Downs, who is currently the assistant superintendent, as a "talented and well-known educator," and is training him to take his place to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

> "I want to continue to work to keep our students at the center of what we do."
>
> **DR. STEVE YAGER**
> *SACS Superintendent*

▶5
years that Yager will have been superintendent when he retires.

"Dr. Downs and I have been working on a transition plan for two years," Yager said. "I have assigned him various tasks related to the future goals of SACS and when his tenure as superintendent of SACS begins I am certain he will have a good background in the requirements and skills needed for the position."

During the upcoming school year, Downs will be collaborating with Yager and will gradually assume a lead role in the activities of the Superintendent office. Downs will then take over the position in May 2014.

"I want to continue to work to keep our students at the center of what we do. It is critical that we structure what we do around what students will need, rather than what students used to need," Downs said.

Due to their time working together, Yager has been an influence on Down's approach to the job.

"I have learned (from Yager) the value of developing a climate and relationships in a school system so that people are able to work together and focus on the tasks at hand," Downs said.

In Yager's last year, he plans to focus on improving the learning experience of each student by continuing to expand the 1:1 computing program for grades 6-12. Also, he plans to concentrate on staff training and professional development in delivery of the curriculum.

"SACS is blessed with great teachers, staff and administrators," said Dr. Yager, "It is our obligation to assist them as they prepare our students for the

▶ SEE 'YAGER,' PAGE 2

Senior lot 'privilege' to be revoked

Abundance of underclassmen violations cause change in future parking

A senior parking pass hangs atop a student's mirror, signifying the privilege to park in the coveted senior lot. With next year's conversion of the senior lot into a general lot made for all student drivers, seniors must exchange the prestige of a senior tag for the demotion of a pass for the general lot.

By Megan Cater
Writer

Incoming students will notice a change in parking lot organization next year as the senior lot becomes a first come, first serve parking lot for all students.

After years of consideration and planning, the administration decided the 2013-14 school year would be a good year to update parking lot organization.

Over the summer, the tennis courts will be taken out and asphalt will take their place. New tennis courts are currently being built on the other side of the ticket booths entering the football stadium.

"Our tennis courts are going to be taken out and the area will be changed into another lot, adding possibly another 100 spots," Assistant Principal Jeff Kintz said.

Although the necessity for new tennis courts is the main reason for the general lot, the disregard for assigned parking lots this year also aided in the decision.

Underclassmen are expected to park in the sophomore and junior lots. With more underclassmen parking in the prestigious senior lot, however, repercussions were to be expected.

"We've had more warnings, second warnings and parking passes taken away this year than in years past," Kintz said. "Our resource officer has other duties to do than monitor the parking lots. It is not a pertinent issue for us to try to police."

Parking violations are based on the "One and Done" policy. Students receive violations if they park in a lot they are not permitted to park in such as the senior lot, teacher lot or Impact lot. Also, students who park in "No parking zones" receive violations. After a certain number of violations, students' parking privileges are revoked.

▶159
"likes" on the Facebook page Students Against General Lot, protesting the loss of the senior lot.

Students' reactions to the new parking lot circumstances are mixed based upon grade level. Obviously, underclassmen are ecstatic about their luck.

"As a junior-to-be, I am very happy with Homestead removing the senior lot restrictions so that everyone has a fair chance at the best parking lots the school has to offer," Tyler Strunk (10) said.

A majority of the junior class however, is in an uproar, questioning the administration's decision and the fairness of the change.

"I think that we should have the

▶ SEE 'PARKING LOT,' PAGE 2

Administration deters senior pranks

Seniors fail to continue annual pranking traditions for 3 consecutive years

By Hamna Qureshi
Writer

Senior pranks are but a distant memory for the students of Homestead. For the last few years, there have not been any senior pranks as administration has tightened its reins on students.

"It's a tradition that's been broken by years of administrative oppression towards allowance of pranking," Joey Sherman (12) said. "Senior pranks are so rare because the punishments are not worth being remembered as a prankster."

Sherman, among other students, believes that the administration is the primary deterrent of senior pranks and that the punishments are not worth the risk.

"There was no senior prank last year because the administration had found out some of our potential plans through students that disagreed with the idea and had threatened us, saying that we would not be able to walk at graduation," Daniyal Munir ('12) said.

Administration's threats continue to discourage current seniors from trying any pranks for fear of serious repercussions.

"Masterminds behind pranks aren't allowed to walk at graduation," Shermain said. "I'd say seniors aren't excited for pranks due to the potential punishments. The risk doesn't outweigh the reward."

Before the administration was told of last year's prospective senior prank, it was going to take place at graduation and involve most of the seniors.

"Potentially, everyone at our graduation was going to be involved with this prank and it wouldn't have been very disruptive," Munir said. "I wanted to do a senior prank because it seemed like a good idea to continue on with tradition. Our prank in particular wasn't too disruptive and had no serious consequences."

Regardless of past prank mishaps and strict administrative policies regarding senior pranks, some students who are not yet seniors still look forward to upcoming senior pranks.

"I think senior pranks are awesome and all in good fun. They're a good way for kids to leave their mark on a school that they've spent four years at," Shazana Nadeem (11) said. "I think senior pranks are a tradition and will always be relevant. We should always keep them going."

Even though there is still some

▶ SEE 'PRANK,' PAGE 2

THE REASON

"I'd say seniors aren't excited for pranks due to the potential punishments. The risk doesn't outweigh the reward."

JOEY SHERMAN (12)

Senior staff members reflect on pub career

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Editor-in-Chief

Left to right: Senior staff members Joe Laughlin, Dani Castonzo, Clair Pranger, Colton Shaffer, Tori Barnard and Laura Zweig

I always want my readers to cry.

Since my Spartana career began three years ago, every word I typed targeted the emotions of my fellow students, and most importantly, my biggest audience–their mothers.

I illuminated the tragedy of the underdog who fails; I wrote about the death of a close friend; I lamented the termination of my own athletic career.

I can't explain my affinity for sadness. Maybe it's because I believe it's the easiest emotion to access. Or maybe it's because I listen to excessively melodramatic music.

As this blank word document gleans off my forehead, I'm listening to the crooning of Emile Mosseri of The Dig in "All Tied Up."

"All the lights are burning out with the fire in your heart," Mosseri said, "You wanna spend this time alone, with your head wrapped in the dark."

He's right–the lights are burning out, but the fire is still in my heart. The fire, however, has nothing to do with what I feel compelled to write; it has everything to do with what I already experienced.

My journalism career provided me some of the closest friendships I've ever known. In a few short days, I will be kicked out of the location in which they all began.

I'm not ready to let them go.

As he ordered a custom-made donut from Dunkin' Donuts four years ago, Joe Hanauer ('11) dragged me into this world of newspaper. He taught me how to write and how to design. He also introduced me to 4 a.m. Skype calls, Odd Future, and the realization that neither of us was cool, but we were okay with it.

One year later, while they helped me stuff the shreds of a dozen newspapers into the inverted rubber cement-covered desk of the innocent, incredibly helpful Beth Huber ('11), Joe Janizek ('12) and Connor O'Hara ('12) offered to show me how such incredibly different individuals can become uniquely close.

When they badgered me about a girl as we allowed a deadline to go to waste, Tori Barnard (12) and Meggie Vail (12) started a volatile, sibling-like relationship last year that persists today.

My girlfriend, Veronika Grote ('11), has been graciously understanding of my newspaper workload. She, in combination with my witty, house music-loving friends Ryan Boylan (12) and Sydney Isroff (11), kept me sane the past two years.

Through it all, Mr. Justin Peeper graciously decided to provide me with unparalleled guidance and support. He is one of the driving factors behind nearly everything I have accomplished this year, and he would deny that fact with a gun to his head.

Lastly, I must thank my parents for refusing to make any decisions for me. They never forced me to join newspaper, take a tough class, or work another job; nor did they hold me back from any opportunities. In doing so, they allowed me to thrive and fail, overwork myself and burn out, and ultimately, learn.

This list, unfortunately, is too short, and these people deserve many more words that I have provided.

"All your words are a tangled mess," Mosseri said. "And all the chains around your heart–yeah they're all tied up. You can feel it but you don't understand."

As a journalist, I constantly strive to sift through the clutter of words to pinpoint what best represents my message. While the screenplay of the past three years flies through my head, an involuntary flutter churns from the pit of my stomach; I could never articulate my own emotion through words.

I want my readers to cry; but now, as I reminisce on this period of love, happiness, despair and redemption, maybe it's my turn to be overwhelmed by emotion.

This newspaper reflects much more of me than the words I bound to its pages.

I hope you all found it.

I've never been one to attach sentimental value to much in regards to school, but when I look back at my four years at Homestead, I will miss, above all, the people that I met on staff at the Spartana and the opportunities it afforded me to be genuinely myself, no filter.

Ever since my first year of middle school, I knew I wanted to join the newspaper and write for the Opinion section, which I graduated to editing my second year on staff. I haven't looked back, and am grateful for it because it irreparably changed my life.

An Opinion writer has the unique opportunity to express his own thoughts on a subject, and thus make the article his own.

In this environment, my talent as a writer was able to flourish so that my efforts at communication morphed from simply getting my point across to putting myself in every word written so that the story became as much a self-portrait as an attempt to educate the general public and articulate my stance.

Able to flourish

That change to my writing, however, pales in comparison to the change the people of the Spartana effected on my life. It was through the newspaper that I met my now closest circle of friends, and through that circle of friends I realized that it was perfectly acceptable to be myself.

As someone who has always existed on the fringes of society, it was never easy fully trusting and committing to friends, no matter how long we had known each other, because my views differ sharply from the norm in this part of the country. Frankly, I was afraid of social ostracism should I expose too much of my personality, and those on staff at the Spartana taught me that differences are just part of life and that, if you trust others enough to open yourself to them, they will do likewise, and perhaps you'll find you weren't so different after all.

The Spartana was probably the best thing that could have happened to me, and for that, the depths of my gratitude are immeasurably ineffable. To those graduating with me, I say good luck and good riddance. Get out of Homestead and do what you were meant to do, and, above all, succeed at it. To those still on staff come next fall, I say good luck and keep strong. This and next year will be challenging, but I am completely comfortable saying the newspaper is in good hands. - *Clair Pranger*

In the first issue this year, we were desperate to fill space on page 2 late on the final night of pasteups, so we included a story about what the editors looked forward to this year. I am quoted in the story saying, "Spartana isn't just a job–it's a lifestyle." At the time, I said it in jest, referring to Spartana legend Larry Buchanan's senior brick in the yellow room, "It's not just a class, it's your job."

When I look back on the time I've spent on staff, I realize that my statement was accurate. The Spartana prepared me more for life than any other experience I've had in high school.

My first year on staff, I was afraid of my editor and therefore willing to write multiple stories an issue. You're welcome, Beth Huber ('11). I only joined staff because my sister Alex ('11) loved it. This was the only time I directly followed in her footsteps, and it was the best decision I made.

Last year I dealt with two editor-in-chiefs who, to put it lightly, were not fond of each other. That just made moments when Mary Distler ('12) and Joe Janizek ('12) got along so much more rewarding to witness. Nothing brings people together like stealing political signs, complaining about a lazy adviser or completing an award winning issue at one am following a year of subpar issues and the repeated phrase "Seattle doesn't know."

I developed an unstable bond with my design family Joe Laughlin (12) and Meghan Vail (12) that can never be broken, even though they mock me constantly. Almost all of my favorite newspaper memories occurred with them past 9 pm on a pasteups night. I will always remember the night I violated numerous traffic laws after stealing my mom's car to get a computer from school to meet a 12 pm deadline. Thanks, Kathryn.

Best decision

I would like to thank my parents for allowing newspaper to consume my life and pasteups to be held at their house this year. I also would like to thank Justin Peeper for being an invaluable resource and the best adviser a journalism student could ask for.

I never felt particularly nostalgic about high school, until now. No one will call me T-Bone or Eeyore next year, nicknames I initially despised but now accept and love.

Journalism, like life, isn't about awards or audience or attention. Journalism is about trying hard, taking risks and trusting others along the way. - *Tori Barnard*

In the real world, a successful newspaper staff is a fast-paced and efficient body, equipped with top resources and capable journalists who strive for excellence and write with passion; they are competitive and focused on the tasks ahead of them.

Our newspaper staff does not have any of those qualities. If you asked the majority of people on staff why they signed up for the class, they would most likely tell you one of two things: because it was "an easy A," or because they needed another extracurricular. After three years on staff, I cannot think of a single issue where everything was turned in on time.

Miss this place

If I had to sum our staff up in one sentence, it would be this: We run on sarcasm, fun and free food, and somehow we manage to pull it off.

Although we aren't the most organized or top-notch newspaper in the country, I wouldn't change anything about the experiences I've had here. I've spent more hours in the pub suite than I have in any other place in Homestead. Our rooms are full of abandoned clothes and remains of pranks gone wrong, and stacks of plastic utensils from past years. I have made almost all of my best friends and my best jokes within the walls of the pub room.

I joined the Spartana staff as a lowly life writer, assigned the bottom-of-the-barrel stories on the impact of ear buds, seasonal activities and at least five band stories. Now, three years later, I leave an editor and future journalism major. I have cranked out 700 word stories in less than an hour, and I have edited stories that consisted of exclamation points.

I understand that working for a newspaper after school will be nothing like this. And that's probably for the best. I'm excited to write stories that thousands of people will read and learn what life is like after high school. But I will miss this place.

I'll end with a shout out to the tens of you who have read my column. I'm not qualified to give any advice, but that has never stopped me before, so here it goes: next year, start assignments at least an hour before they are due, do things outside of your comfort zone and, most importantly, understand your place
- *Dani Castonzo*

As the end of the year draws tantalizingly close, it is nearly impossible to go ten feet without hearing yet another senior whining about the sluggish progression of time. Certainly, every student regardless of grade level yearns for the liberty summer brings, but the warmth of the sun, and the feelings of limitless possibility are more potent to those who will be reveling in them one last time, and it is to these students I speak with particular emphasis:

In your life, accomplish whatever you want to achieve, and become whoever you want to be. The only limitations in life are those of self-invention.

This is easier said than done. Fortunately, you are not alone in your ambitions. The rest of the world is constantly changing and reinventing itself, and while the most cynical among us would argue this to be a hindrance to self-actualization, I disagree. The world will continue to shift regardless of our ambitions, and viewing these shifts with negativity will do little to inhibit their occurrence. Even the most comfortably-situated individuals can and will be shaken from their positions, forced to reevaluate themselves and their place in the world.

Thus, the only way forward is to view each upset as a push in the right direction. Roll with the punches. Refuse to become stagnant and stale. Reach for all the world has to offer. Remember to give thanks. Remember to give back.

Every single student who hears the glorious sound of the bell releasing students from seventh period on the last day of class will have nothing on the mind but the future, whether it be their plans for the evening, the summer, or next school year. While planning ahead and thinking about what lies around the river bend is necessary, be sure to stop your speeding train of thought and remember all that got you to that present moment. As you plan a trip to the beach with friends, a three hour nap with your favorite pet, or inevitable "Move In" day, remember to thank everyone who has helped you along the way.

Not alone

Sure, high school has been full of thousands of late nights, and sickeningly early mornings, but no student accomplishes high school alone. Every single step of the way, someone is there supporting you, whether it be your best friend who offers a shoulder to cry on or a teacher who graciously offers one extra day on that overdue project.
- *Colton Shaffer*

I have a picture of my grandfather as a young man in 1946. He and his colleagues at the Pekin Times, a small town newspaper in Illinois, are huddled around a desk, papers strewn everywhere, intensely focused looks on their faces.

It's a scene I know well from my years on the Spartana.

Ever since my freshman year, the pub suite has been my home. I've served as a writer, associate life editor, foreign correspondent, copy editor, writing coach, designer and now executive editor, covering stories from a student's grassroots campaign for Homecoming King to adventures from my own semester abroad in Israel. I have written or rewritten stories from each section, and have found myself up until the early hours of the morning putting final touches on the paper.

Been my home

While a lot has changed since my grandfather's years as a newspaperman, particularly the prevalence of computers, the need for print journalism remains. We live in a world of constant information. We always have access to online news sites, blogs and other sources of infotainment. Yet, we still don't know what's happening in the world around us. We're bombarded with information about Amanda Bynes' latest meltdown, but who really knows what's happening in Syria?

Journalism is what keeps us grounded, what distracts us from our selfish lives and what reminds us of our priorities. They say that journalists are supposed to be flies on the wall, but I see them as those high-pitched mosquitoes, always buzzing around and making noise; it's just that only some people can hear them.

Our staff works tirelessly to deliver the news to a school that sometimes seems like it couldn't care. Still, I'm proud to have tried.

When I'm sitting in the yellow room, I like to look at the bricks on the wall signed by old staff members. One brick in particular sticks out to me: "To write is the power to change." There's a certain power in the written word that when harnessed can perform wonders. It can build, and it can destroy. Someone just has to read it. - *Laura Zweig*

▶ PRANK

CONTINUED FROM 1

enthusiasm for senior pranks, students question the significance of this long-standing high school tradition.

"I would like to see senior pranks be relevant but it's kind of a dying cause because the administration is witholding it and the seniors seem to have a lack of interest in it nowadays," Munir said. "As long as the prank is not disruptive or cause vandalism, there should be no reason as to why it shouldn't be carried out."

Hoping for a senior prank next year, Nadeem believes that there is a solution to the problem of administrative threats.

"I think there is a huge disconnect between the administration and students," Nadeem said. "If there was more communication, students would be able to pull senior pranks within reason."

▶ PARKING LOT

CONTINUED FROM 1

senior parking lot because it has been a rule for so long and it is not fair to the incoming senior class to change it now," Adam Playter (11) said. "The senior class earned the right to park in that lot by laboring through the three years of being an underclassman and now we have no seniority anymore."

Despite students' disapproval of the decision, the senior lot will be a general lot next year.

"We're in the education business, not the parking business," Kintz said. "Parking is a privilege, not a right."

▶ YAGER

CONTINUED FROM 1

next season of their lives – whatever that may be."

Yager's favorite part of his position at Southwest Allen is the relationships he is able to build.

"To dream of a plan, provide for training and implementation of that plan and to witness student growth because of that plan is very rewarding," Yager said.

After his retirement, Yager will take six months off before committing to any other work. During that period, he plans to relax, enjoy spending time with his eleven grandchildren, and travel. Throughout Dr. Yager's career with SACS, he has been known and loved for his dedication to the students.

"I will miss the interactions with students, staff, teachers, and administrators," Yager said. "I enjoy working with parent groups and with the SACS board."

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Senior Activities, 4

PHOTO BY REAGAN MARSEILLE

Abercrombie and Fitch CEO requires buyers to be 'cool kids' to wear clothing

By Kylie Poling
Writer

It is a fairly universally accepted fact that Abercombie and Fitch is a stereotypically preppy clothing brand, and to most teenagers this has a negative connotation. Despite this, the chain is still popular among teenagers. Its popularity with teens however, does not excuse the recently resurfaced claims made by the CEO of Abercombie and Fitch, Mike Jeffries, saying that Abercrombie clothes should only be worn by the group he calls the cool and popular kids, which he first made in a 2006 article for Salon magazine.

"In every school there are the cool and popular kids, and then there are the not-so-cool kids. Candidly, we go after the cool kids. We go after the attractive all-American kid with a great attitude and a lot of friends. A lot of people don't belong [in our clothes], and they can't belong. Are we exclusionary? Absolutely." Jeffries said.

One of Jeffries' main points was that Abercombie is catering to a specific audience. This is true of most brands; Nike targets athletes, The North Face targets outdoorsman and hikers and Abercrombie evidently targets the "attractive all-American kid with a great attitude and a lot of friends," at least according to Jeffries, but anybody can walk into any of those stores and buy whatever he wants. It's not like someone must be a hiker to buy items from The North Face (it will sell clothes to anyone.) To say that only cool kids should buy Abercombie and Fitch clothes is ridiculous and offensive. Brands reserve the right to target whomever they want to, but that does not mean that a brand has the authority to be blatantly exclusive.

Many Homestead students are offended by Jeffries' statements, becoming ex-patrons of the company, and more and more students are beginning to criticize the company's policy every day. Kelsi Brown (9) is among this concerned group of youths.

"I get that Abercombie caters to a certain crowd, but what Jeffries said is not okay at all," Brown said. The outrage, however, is not limited to just Homestead. People like professional stage and screen actor Benjamin O'Keefe of Florida are starting national petitions and demonstrations against the company. O'keefe's petition (which currently has over 60,000 signatures) got the attention of the company, and he met with executives to discuss possible solutions to problems stemming from the people offended by the claims. It looks as though Abercombie and Fitch is trying really hard to rebuild its image and regain respect.

Another way that Abercombie and Fitch has tried to mend its damaged public image was by putting out a press release from Jeffries supposedly apologizing for his statements.

"I sincerely regret that my choice of words was interpreted in a manner that has caused offense." Jeffries said.

This attempt was an insufficient apology, because he did not actually apologize for the statements that he made; he apologized for the fact that people misinterpreted his comments and took them as offensive. Students were not satisfied with the apology, and many of them expressed their disgust. One of the students unsatisfied with Jeffries' apology was Sierra Schwab (9).

"Jeffries' statements are unethical and rude, and he needs a more sincere apology." Schwab said.

While nothing about what Jeffries said was acceptable, his statements were taken out of context. Still, his choice of words is inexcusable. Many former Abercrombie shoppers are retaliating by donating clothes with the Abercrombie logo to homeless shelters. Others plan on boycotting the clothing line altogether.

In reality, all Abercombie and Fitch needs is to do is to start marketing to the groups that Jeffries insulted so that the company no longer seems too exclusive. Students like Sarah Camino (9) agree.

"Abercombie is a brand that needs to broaden its market and end its exclusivity. It makes sense economically as well as morally." Camino said.

Abercrombie & Fitch has no excuse for excluding portions of the population based on materialistic and impractical ideals. Jeffries thinks that trying to appeal to a certain market has made his company in successful, but in reality, the public reveal of this strategy will probably lose the company millions of sales.

twitter take

Every isssue, Sydney Isroff will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Twitter.

Question: "How would you resolve the problem of underclassmen parking in the senior lot?"

@reagan_cook - Reagan Cook (11) ▶ "Let the upperclassmen take care of it."

@P_Lee17 - Paul Lee (12) ▶ "A fight to the death."

@Its_Jordo - Jordan Bell (12) ▶ "The one an done rule is fine, but the lot must be checked regularly."

@ABSamatterafact - Abbey Kittaka (12) ▶ "Fight them with light sabers."

Shift to general lot ultimately necessary

Removal of parking lot strictly for seniors diminishes social conflict, increases efficiency

By Colby Shoup
Writer

Ever since the now infamous segment which announced that there would no longer be a senior parking lot next year aired on the May 17th edition of Homestead on Demand, students all around the building have been debating about the fairness of this new policy. Despite the fact that to many incoming seniors this new policy seems unfair, from the perspective of an under classman, the policy seems reasonable. Although ending the senior parking lot policy would not end this cycle entirely, it would make huge progress in fixing the problem.

One of the most common arguments against ending senior parking lot privileges is the argument that since the class before them got senior parking lot privileges; it is only fair that next year's seniors get the same privileges.

"I feel entitled [to a senior parking space] not because I'm going to be the oldest and therefore more deserving purely based on age, but because every day of junior year I have walked from either the junior or sophomore lot and thought 'well at least I won't have to make this walk next year'. I feel like I have paid my dues and now deserve to reap the benefits, like every other underclassman that has followed the rules," Laura Laudeman (11) said.

What juniors fail to realize is that a senior parking lot is an old fashioned and unfair idea that needed to be put to rest at some point. It is unfortunate for the senior class but it is only a minor annoyance and it is for the better of the school. This way, in the future, school discipline officers will not have to spend time making sure everyone parking in the senior lot is a senior, but working on serious and legitimate discipline issues.

Although the decision to take away the senior lot was made because of the overwhelming amount of underclassmen that parked in the lot despite not being seniors, there were most likely many other factors that factored into the school's decision.

"It's really better this way. What with extending the lots and moving the tennis courts next year, it helps with the congestion. Now everyone with a car has an even chance of getting a spot rather than this arbitrary system of parking areas," Drake White (10) said.

There is one thing that both sides seem to be able to agree on: there should never have been a senior parking lot in the first place.

"I believe that not having a senior lot in the first place would have been better because that way people wouldn't have been disobeying the rules and getting into trouble for parking where they were not supposed to and then getting privileges taken away," Alex New (11) said.

The senior lot is an old policy that shouldn't have been put into the rulebook in the first place, and in the end, the incoming seniors will just have to, for lack of a better phrase, suck it up. The policy is unhealthy to the social dynamics of in that it gives seniors a false entitlement. All of the messiness that was caused this policy could have been avoided if the administration hadn't spoiled seniors by giving them the senior parking lot in the first place.

PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Right: Cars occupy the current senior lot, which will soon become a part of the general lot for the next school year. All student drivers will be allowed to park in this lot, which will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. No senior passes will be issued since all will be the same. These identical passes will be distributed during registration in the fall.

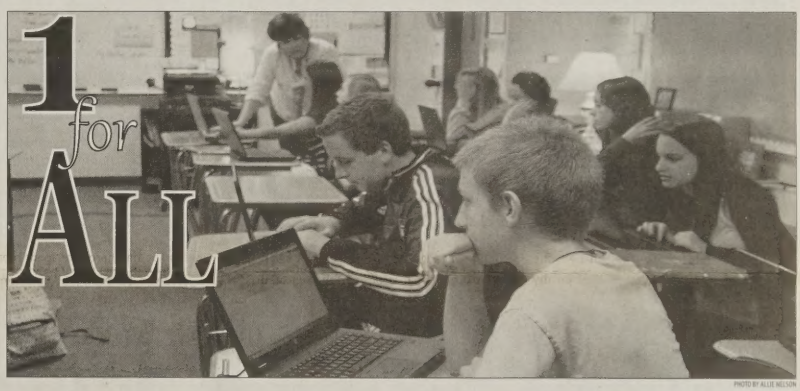


PHOTO BY ALLIE NELSON

Students overlook improvements made by individual student laptops

By Sydney Isroff
Writer

Newly introduced to Homestead this year, 1:1 Computing has seen mixed feelings throughout the students and faculty. An abundance of students complain that their computer "never works" and is "pointless", but most of these students are unaware of how fortunate they are to have laptops given to them by the school district. Each student is given a laptop, yet a majority of them have found multiple minor problems to complain about in an attempt to fight back at the administration.

Not only do these laptops provide more options for creativity in the classroom, but they also give students who are less fortunate a chance to own a computer of their own that they can use during the school year. Those complaining seem to forget an individual computer was purchased for them by the school, and they can't seem to be grateful enough to appreciate it.

The argument of the server always being down is ridiculous. They get the job done. They were bought to accommodate school-oriented activities, which is exactly what they do. A server being down has nothing to do with the laptops, and would still be an issue if they were never purchased. Also, the computers are not always used for academic purposes, but thats the same argument for pencil and paper. If the argument states that they are used for non-educational purposes, then doodling pictures on paper would fall under the same category, and we might as well pronounce paper as pointless too.

Computers for each student allows for communication outside of school hours to provide help and homework advice. Classes can also communicate via website through mybigcampus.com and discuss the homework assigned that night.

Certain classes have moved to online testing, and now each student can easily participate. Also, online assignments are quicker to grade and quicker to put in the grade book, which is something most students tend to complain about.

A school district purchasing laptops for each individual student is being overlooked and unappreciated. With new situations comes complications, but for a first year experience, it went decently smooth. With this past year being a test year, it was only expected to run into difficulties and problems. With these newly discovered issues, the technological staff assigned to this area are able to work on improving them and to only move on from them to next year. Eventually, the main purpose of the computers, which is education, will become recognized rather than the issues facing it.

The computers may not be perfect, but they are only improving the school, and eventually, students may be able to appreciate something the administration did, rather than automatically fighting it.

Above: English students complete writing tasks in Criterion on the personal computers throughout the duration of the class time.

Indiana charter schools' funding retracted

By Colton Shaffer
Writer

In the wake of Ball State University's recent decision to withdraw its support from nine public charter schools it currently sponsors (two of the nine declined to reapply for sponsorship from the university) due to their inability to meet, much less exceed, academic expectations, the public is left wondering about the precarious futures of charter schools in Indiana. Unsurprisingly, the rest of the educational community is left with a bitter taste in its mouth, a taste with unmistakable overtones of "I told you so."

The idea certainly seems benevolent enough on the surface: a charter is written up between a granting body, such as a school board, and then a school is formed around the goals of the charter, receiving state and federal money while often avoiding the across-the-board standards to which other publicly funded schools are held. Then again, the idea of Communism seems benevolent enough on the surface as well. Unfortunately, the end result of many charter schools will be little better than those of the Soviet Union, a country which effectively proved that all the benevolent intentions in the world amount to little in the absence of enforced standards and approximately uniform results.

The primary problem with charter schools is simple: despite their best efforts and a substantial amount of funding from the government that would otherwise have been allocated to public schools, there is little evidence showing that charter schools as a whole perform as well as the public schools.

Margaret Raymond, an economist at Stanford University, conducted a national study that surveyed half the charter schools in the nation and more than 70% of all charter school students and found that 37% of charter schools performed more poorly than comparable neighborhood public schools, 46% performed about the same and only 17% performed better than the local public schools. Raymond said, "If this study shows anything, it shows that we've got a 2-to-1 margin of bad charters to good charters."

The argument for public charter schools are weak at best, mainly that public charter schools offer low-income students with few options for education a safety net. Public charter schools simply are not the way forward. As charter schools clearly cannot keep up with typical public schools, they form a safety net with huge holes.

Rather than dividing scare troops between two different battlefields, slashing funding for charter schools and funneling it back into the public school system could give public schools the boost they need to stay afloat. But even cutting funding for charter schools cannot completely save a neglected school system.

At some point, the state and federal governments have to make education a priority. For example, spending on national defense comprises about nineteen percent of the national budget, while education spending comprises approximately one percent. While many columnists and writers beat the sequester to death long ago, many failed to mention the fact that nearly 70,000 children were kicked out of Head Start, a program that makes preschool available to low-income families. Perhaps the problem does not lie in a difference between charter and public schools. Perhaps the problem lies in a government that has for decades put the education system on the back burner. The fact that airports were given back a full staff while low-income children sit at home speaks for itself.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY ISROFF

Above: Imagine magnet school's funding will be sharply cut due to the decision made by Ball State University to limit funding.

Tour de Ponds, 5

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS ROBINSON

Simulator mimics possible natural accident

Science classes experience mock earthquake in addition to school's safety measures

By Madison Lyon
Writer

Don't panic: the suggestion that is so important that it is printed on the back cover in bold letters of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, as well as in every accredited survival source as rule number one. The question is not to panic or not to panic, but how not to panic.

With the destruction and devastation sweeping communities in Oklahoma and the remnants of Katrina still soiling life in New Orleans, it is evident that disaster does not discriminate. The difference between a wounded community and a shattered community is preparedness.

The state mandates one fire drill per month and the Allen County School Commission decided on two tornado and two lock down drills per semester; Homestead can pride itself with its careful vigilance and cautious awareness to prevent the worst. On the May 16, The Quake Cottage made its appearance. With Michael Essrig, a pair of representatives and a large trailer, the all but daunting display of high school science students being thrashed about in a pull-behind was enough to make the news.

"I don't know who said it first, but I think they said it right when they said it was like a cheap carnival ride minus the seat belt," Rebecca Auger (11) said.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

The contraption contained four mega-plush, leather-upholstered chairs, various items lining the wall to create a realistic environment as well as clamorous racket and a small flat-screen displaying the intensity or magnitude that one was experiencing at the time. White knuckles and gripping legs were a common sight as the violent shaking reached a 7.0

The books on the ledges jolted back and forth and the items on the wall banged, held only by a wire, contributing to the surreal vividness of the experience.

It was not necessarily fun and perhaps a bit terrifying as one held on for dear life to the quasi-inviting furniture and watched the pictures of destruction and alarm flashing beneath the magnitude number. Though earthquakes fit into both the environmental science and earth space curriculums, The Quake Cottage taught much more than just the standards.

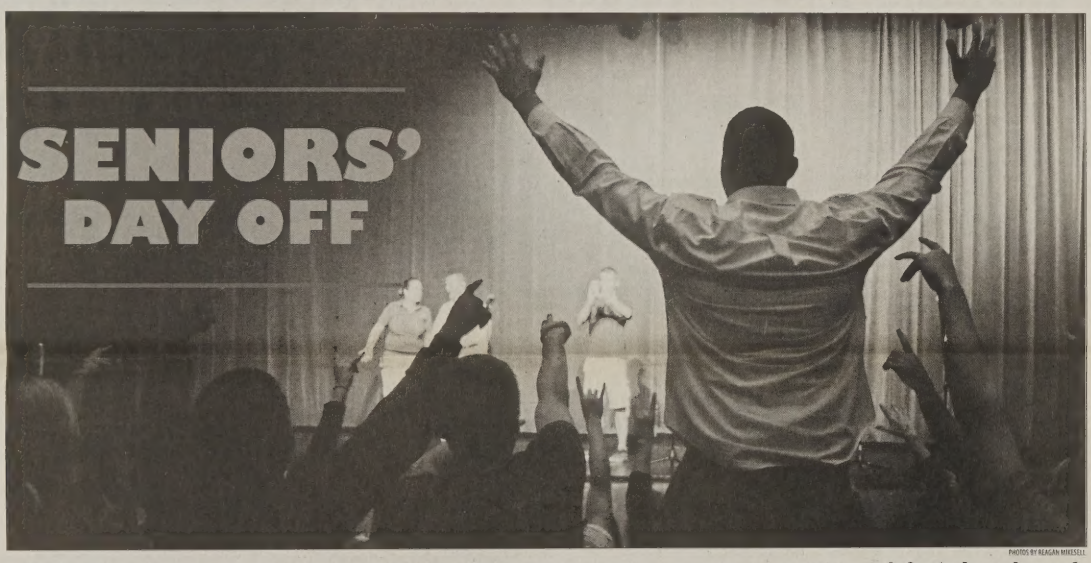
"I hope that (students) just got a better idea of how serious an earthquake can be and how difficult it can be to protect one's self during a quake," head of the simulator endeavor and Cindy Crawford, science teacher, said.

Though some students belly ache and complain as they scurry outside for fire drills in the dead of winter or crouch into the corners of the hallway for tornado drills, preparedness is all that is respectively conceivable. Completely readying oneself for the worst is next to impossible, but the idea is to get comfortable with the motion of acting. The Midwest quite possibly may never feel tremors of another earthquake again but the chance still stands.

"According to the National Geological Society, no earthquake has ever been accurately predicted, so it is good to be prepared," Stephanie Merkling, science teacher, said.

The hope is that this was not the Cottage's only appearance but that it will return again. Though the school hopes it will never need to use the information and readiness capacity taught by The Quake Cottage, the learning experience was unparalleled.

Students participate in the Quake Cottage, located in front of the school's parking lot. The Quake Cottage gains awareness of earthquake danger by rocking back and forth, mocking as high as up to 7.0 magnitude.



PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIESSELL

Upperclassmen spend time outside of classrooms in commemoration of their hard work

By Kate Troutman
Writer

After four years of homework, exams and long school days, the seniors were finally able to reap the benefits of their hard work with a half day catered to them.

Student government organized and funded the various events that took place.

In the past, senior activities day had been an entire school day filled with fun activities and no academic classes or a half day where seniors left school after the planned activities were finished.

This year, seniors attended sanctioned activities during the first four periods of school and attended their last three periods of the day.

Despite not being able to leave after the planned activities, seniors were still able to enjoy the half day planned for them.

The special day for seniors started out with a long breakfast in the cafeteria where students were able to eat a variety of foods and socialize.

While students ate their breakfast, student government members called students up to play a shortened version of Deal or No Deal to win small prizes, such as bubbles or ABC magnets for a refrigerator.

After breakfast, students filed into the auditorium for the senior variety show.

Though fewer acts tried out this year compared to previous years, the show was comprised of plenty of talent.

"The senior variety show was both entertaining and surprising," Evan Hart (12) said. "Jiwon Park (12) was incredible and the Dream Team stole the show; needless to say, it was something that the seniors won't soon forget."

After the senior variety show, students watched or participated in a reenactment of the famous game show, The Price is Right, hosted by Class President Bradey Wright (12) and Vice President Jack Hagedorn (12).

Students were called on stage to guess prices of common items or household appliances.

If they guessed closest to the price without guessing over the price, they were able to keep the item they bidded on and play an additional game for more prizes.

The various large and small prizes given away to students on stage included a microwave, won by Colton Shaffer (12), and a mini-fridge, won by Zachary McFarland (12).

"My favorite part of senior activities day was Price is Right because it was new and different," Price is Right Co-Host Hagedorn said, "We were able to buy some pretty nice prizes, and the entire crowd really got into it, which made it even better."

Although seniors had to go back to class for the rest of the day, they were still treated to lunch from two food trucks, Jumby's Joint (specializing in delicious sandwiches) and Bravas (specializing in unique hotdog combinations), as well as dessert from Yum Yums frozen yogurt.

"I was impressed by the food trucks," Jamie Baer (12) said. "I need to find the food trucks again so I can eat more of Brava's 'Patatas Bravas.'"

Although bittersweet since the end of high school is approaching the seniors quickly, students were able to enjoy one last senior class bonding event and relish in not having to go to some of their classes.

Top: Students show their excitement during the senior variety show. Bottom: Heather Bond (12) performs pieces on her violin. Bond has been a member of the school orchestra for all of her high school years.

Third annual teen talent show impresses all

City draws young crowd into downtown area in attempts of revitalizing and rebuilding

By Allie Nelson
Writer

Fort Wayne's Almost Famous aims for what exactly one may think. Showcasing artistic talent from high schools around Fort Wayne, the annual event, planned by Mayor Henry's Youth Engagement Council, presents local dance and music groups to a large audience. This creates a surge of popularity in these young performers, sparking within them the determination to surpass the limits of almost famous.

"[Fort Wayne's Almost Famous] gives kids a chance to have their own moment to shine in front of the entire city," Hanita Epstein (12), council president, said. "Our goal is to get all kids downtown–to the center of Fort Wayne."

Saturday, bands and dance groups stood center stage as onlookers watched their skills in awe during the third annual Fort Wayne's Almost Famous.

The students gathered experiences to improve their performances and met people to inspire them along the way.

"I sang two songs with Jazmin Edwards (11) and we both really enjoyed it," Sarah Leone (10), student performer, said. "This was our first public event, so it was very new to sing to people we didn't know."

For some performers, the event offered simply another opportunity to shock people with what they dedicate their time to practicing–what they really love.

"I liked displaying my talent and surprising people with what I can do," Grant Bastin (10), member of Michael and the Duops, said. "I like [meeting new groups] because it's always good to hear other opinions and styles of music."

> "The Council wanted to do something that would showcase downtown for teens and I thought it was a great idea."
>
> **TOM HENRY**
> *City Mayor*

Not only did these students enjoy the show, they gained popularity among a wide audience, which in the musical field can make the difference between success and failure.

"One of my friends who has played during the show before has been given opportunities such as opening for The Ready Set," Bastin said. "Also, playing downtown broadens your typical audience."

Originally created in 2011, the function's primary purpose, unifying the town in a place accessible to all, has been emphasized through the three events.

Connecting young citizens to a specific place gives these students some responsibility in managing a successful community.

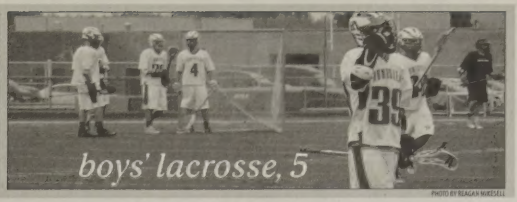
"The Council wanted to do something that would showcase downtown for teens and I thought it was a great idea. These young people worked hard at putting together the event, securing sponsors and organizing all of the logistics. I'm thrilled that they realize this is indeed their Fort Wayne and that they pushed to start an event that will connect our youth to our downtown in a unique way," Mayor Tom Henry said, according to the Parkview Field website.

The effects of the event will spread across the city as knowledge also grows.

The consistency of Fort Wayne's Almost Famous and the persistence of the council members will truly make the downtown area artistically flourish.

Already the influence has been apparent in the way people respect music and art as necessities in society.

"I feel like the event helped our community of Fort Wayne to come together to showcase some amazing talent," Leone said.



boys' lacrosse, 5

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Boys' golf finishes season on high note

Team finishes season 10-0, aims to keep momentum going next year

PHOTO BY WILLIAM NGO

Above: Andrew Fream (9) prepares to tee off during a match against Bishop Dwenger.

BY SOPHIA BROWN
Writer

This season, the boys' golf team ended on a positive note, with tremendous successes that propelled them into the postseason.

Not only as individual players, but also as a team, they have accomplished many goals this year.

For instance, the team went 10-0, advancing to Sectionals.

The boys' golf team has a season to look back on and be proud of, as well as a season to look forward to next year.

"This season has definitely been a shock to most competitors," Grant Jagger (11) said. "We have freshman making up half of the team and we have really grown to build potential. If we perform to our highest potential we should have (had) no trouble making it out to Sectionals and regionals."

As the season progressed, the team went 8-0 in conference.

"So far, this season has gone really well," Sam Kuntz (12) said. "We finished the season 10-0. We have all come together and bonded great as a team, too. And our coach has done an excellent job for it only being his second year."

All of the boys agreed when it came to their biggest challenge as a team this season.

"Probably all of us performing on the same day (was difficult)," Jagger said. "We have the ability to shoot in the 290s, but we have just had trouble finding that fifth spot to clock in another score to help us."

"The biggest challenge was for all of us to shoot a good score at once. We could make it happen for our matches but struggles at 18 hole invitations," Kuntz said.

Similarly to every season's close, bittersweet seniors put in their last efforts, hoping to leave the team in shape for next year.

The time has relied on the experience of seniors in the past, like Kyle Davis ('12) last year, to propel the team through the postseason.

"It sucks to leave the team because I'm going to miss the fun at practices with the competitiveness of the matches," Gunner Smith (12) said. "The team will do great the next couple of years. Freshman sophomores and juniors are all solid golfers and have great potential."

"Being a senior is always fun, but in the end it does hurt to be done." said Kuntz. "The next couple of years will be interesting to see. I am positive that the team will be just as good next year, if not even better. Course management and mental focus is the most important key for the younger golfers to work on. Other than that I am sure they will do great."

On the other hand, next year's key players are anticipated to fill in the seniors' void and step into leadership roles.

"Hopefully we will have some of our freshman and sophomores step up and post some low numbers," Jagger said. "I expect that they will get their scores lower than this year, and if it all works as planned we will build a lot of potential next year as a team."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARI SILCOX

Boys' cross country team continues tradition of Tour de Ponds

BY ETHAN YDE
Writer

Although the boys' cross-country season is over, the off-season brings activities that the team has been enjoying for years.

Among these is the notorious Tour de Ponds, in which the team finds various ponds to swim in over the course of an afternoon.

"Tour de Ponds is a time where a group of seniors who have suffered hardships of athletics unite to run the trails of Southwest Allen County district in search of ponds to jump into. It's an amazing time for us guys to get together after being separated by the school halls, part-time jobs, etc. and share one thing that we all have in common: the heart of a true pond runner," Kaleb Schlatter (12) said.

A select group of high school runners searches for the prime ponds to swim in. They use the Aboite Trails to run to each of their destinations together, and they jump in the pond on entry.

This simple idea has become part of a team tradition. This being the fourth year straight that the boys have held the event. To establish an itinerary for the numerous ponds, each member of the boys' cross-country team contacts friends and family around Fort Wayne to ask permission to bring a handful of runners to jump in the chosen pond.

The team establishes a schedule of when to swim at each location and then awaits the day of the Tour de Ponds.

"To keep Tour de Ponds enjoyable and loved by all participating, it's critical and core values are honored; one of them being keeping the 'pond' part of 'pond run' first in discretion. So this year, we're planning on just sticking with our top four or five favorite ponds that have always brought us gratification in previous years," Schlatter said.

What may seem like an outlandish activity is more of big deal then one may think. It is an annual tradition, and most the participants plan for it to continue in years to come.

The boys have even created a t-shirt, with a Tour de Ponds logo on the front and the schedule of the tour on the back. This has been part of the tradition since the debut of the expedition.

"The first Tour de Ponds occurred on Friday May 20, 2010. It was fairly spontaneous that year--more of a free-spirited and celebratory response to the end of a straining track season," Will Davis (12) said. "Afterwards, we had such a great time that we decided to memorialize the event by making t-shirts. And it has since become one of the most anticipated days of the year."

It is truly a momentous time at the end of a long season. The shenanigans of Tour de Ponds eases senioritis and rings in summer vacation.

"I will always remember simply being able to run outside, short shorts flapping in the wind, and yell 'Tour de Ponds' at the top of my lungs without being chastised." Davis said.

Above: Tour de Ponds senior participants run outside during the off season.

Lacrosse season cut short after loss to North Central

BY IAN McKENZIE
Writer

On Saturday May 18th, the boys' lacrosse season came to a bitter end with a 7-0 loss to North Central. Ending with a slump in which they lost their last four games by a combined 34 points, it wasn't an ending anyone had imagined or predicted at the beginning of the year.

Before that, all signs were positive as the Spartans had won five in a row, but a bumbling, injury-addled stretch turned out to be the capper on their season.

"We had established a very challenging schedule. The season has been a series of ups and downs with a number of injuries to some key players," Head Coach John Belote said. "We accomplished a number of our team goals and coaches' goals but fell short in the tournament.

Coming into the season, prospects seemed to be much brighter, as an experience-rich group, led by an abundance of seniors, the team was prepared to take on a grueling schedule that included some of the powerhouses of the state.

In retrospect, it appears that a number of factors got the better of the Spartans.

"The weather this year contributed to some of our challenges and the injuries have hampered our ability as a team to perform at our highest capacity," Belote said. "At one point in the year, we had more players out with injuries than we had practicing on the field."

The adversity bug hits every team, but it seems that at the most inopportune time, poor luck haunted the athletes, restraining them to a record wanting for more.

"The low-point of our season was when a bunch of us got hurt at the end of the season," Aidan Jarmus (12) said. "It left us light on numbers."

When things were at high-tide, though, memories were made as the team earned the reputation as a cohesive, feisty bunch willing to go toe-to-toe with whoever they lined up against.

"The most memorable moment was when we beat Concordia in double overtime. It was by far the most exciting game I've ever been a part of," Harry Silcox (11) said.

Though the team may not have quite had the optimal opportunity for growth, some individuals garnered awards and praise fitting for their level of preparation.

"We received All-State Honorable Mention for Ryan Davis in goal, David Strzelecki at Defense, Christian Delzoppo at Midfield and Nick Miller and Robbie Clay at Attack," Belote said. "We have a number of players looking to play at the college level at schools such as Indiana University, Purdue University, Indiana Tech and Liberty."

And as for next year, the Spartans will attempt to maintain their steady growth as a program despite losses of many key players, a coach, and avidly supportive parents that were there for every step of the way the last four years.

The classic phrase "greater than the sum of its parts" seems to be true in the inverse for this year's 2013 Lacrosse squad – a group that never quite got going despite great individual pieces.

Track to go to state

Trevor Stanley (12) expected to win state in hurdles

BY JESSICA TEBBEN
Writer

Finishing strong, the boys' track team ended their postseason with wins at both state and regionals.

On April 9, the boys beat Columbia City, and on April 12, five members of the team qualified for the Franklin Central Showcase Invitational.

At the invitational, Brayden Law (9) placed first in the Freshman Miracle Mile with a time of 4:33.

On Saturday, the team finished fourth at the Northside Relays against tough area competition.

"Overall, Homestead had a solid meet and season so far, and we are looking forward for meets to come."

PRESTON STERLING (11)
Track member

"Overall, Homestead had a solid meet and season so far, and we are looking forward for meets to come," Preston Sterling (11) said.

The boys' success this season is partially due to the veteran athletes. The team has plenty of upperclassmen to keep the team performing at its best.

According to Coach Livensparger, the boys' team has improved from last year, and even further advancements have been made with the progression of each meet.

Perhaps the most important aspect within both teams so far in the season is teamwork. According to Sterling, their teammates push themselves to be their best and encourage each other to compete well.

The teamwork showed during meets and practices as the boys' team continued have success.

As for the postseason, the boys won the Sectional championship against Wayne High School.

There, Sterling broke two minutes in the 800 meter race and, the team progressed to Regionals placing fourth overall.

The 4x8 team placed third in their event and Law placed second in the two mile race with a time of 9:31, sending them to State.

Having done well at Regionals, the 4x8 team, which consists of Cameron Dark (12), Skyler Mikesell (11), Law, and Sterling, will be progressing to the State competition.

Law also qualified for the two mile race and will be competing in that event at State. Trevor Stanley (12), one of the team's leading runners, also qualified for State in the 100 meter dash and the 300 meter hurdles.

The boys will be competing at the State Championship on May 31 at Indiana University, where Stanley is expected to win the 300 meter hurdles.

"I do believe all of those who made it (to State) will place," John Lark (11) said.

As this is the last meet, Livensparger encourages everyone to make the journey to attend the State meet.

"Come watch us compete," Livensparger said. "Don't blink, because you might miss something."

Jones, Mrs. Jones

"The Joy for Jones movement is having a positive effect on the school," Elly Wood (9) said. "(Mrs. Jones) is going through a hard time, and the fact that she can maintain that positive attitude *gives others hope*."

Lunchables

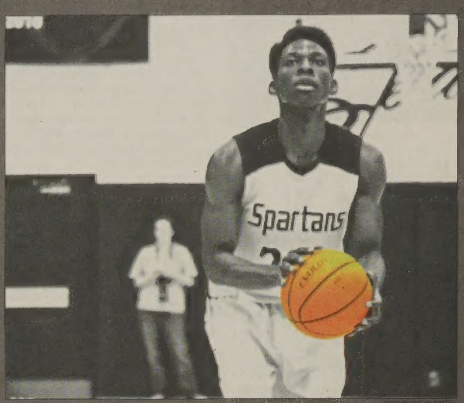
"I think that the school switching to healthier foods is a *very smart idea*," Payton Scott (10) said. "Many students have the motivation to be more healthy, but without the school's help, they won't be able to achieve it."

Please Stay Tuned

"The censorship of the video announcements is disappointing because I had *always looked forward* to the entertaining segments of the announcements," Abby Clarke (10) said.

Leaving Rockwell has Left the Building

"We were kind of expecting it, yet decided to go through with the plan for a twelve-minute song anyways. So when Ben's equipment was unplugged and the curtain started to close, I wasn't all that surprised," Will Davis (12) said. "We would have liked to finish the song, but after it was said and done, being able to say we were *kicked off stage* in a way validates a quasi-punk mentality that we wish we had and sometimes profess."



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seconds left when a 3-pointer shot by Nick Gamble went through the hoop, leading to a victory score of 59-58 against Columbia City.

Gambling the Buzzer

"It was like I couldn't feel anything and everything was going *slow motion*," Nick Gamble (12) said. "It was the best moment of high school for me. I'll never forget it!"

Unpacked Throwback

By Allie Nelson
Writer

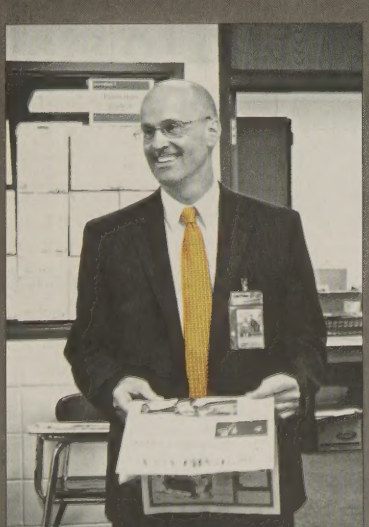
As lockers get cleaned out and textbooks are returned, students reflect on several of the best moments from this past school year. These unforgettable events unified the student body through shared experience.

Turning Tables

"Looking back I kind of regret what happened," Carla Rowland (12) said. "The other students, I felt, were instigating the situation. When somebody takes something that is yours, *what would you do*? Sometimes even when a person is playing around it can build. When I look back on this years from now I will probably laugh and realize getting upset wasn't worth it. Everyone learns their lesson sometime."

Lucky ForChen

"James Chen is a great guy, and he *deserved to win* Homecoming King," Drew Zimmerman (11) said.



A Stroll in the Park

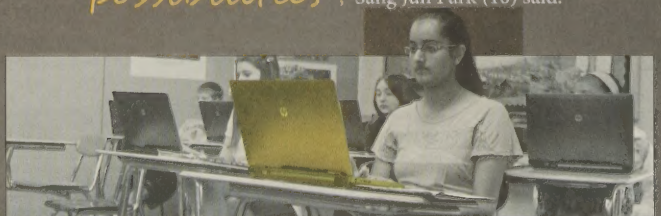
"I'm very excited that Mr. Ginder is becoming the new principal at the school as I've heard *only good things* about him," Matt Hamilton (10) said. "It'll be fun to get him to know what's on students minds through the announcements, as well."

Twitter EmBarkment

"Honestly (I follow Thor) because *he's adorable* and there's pictures of him on it," Izzy Farmer (11) said. "Also because the tweets are funny sometimes."

All for 1:1

"Like a roll of the dice, the effect of one-to-one computing yields *unprecedented possibilities*," Sang Jun Park (10) said.



Top left: Sarah Jones smiles with her joy box. Small clippings of inspirational and uplifting quotes fill the inside. Top right: Nick Gamble is ready to shoot a basket for the team. The basketball team made it all the way to Sectionals where it lost 80-71. Bottom left: 2013-2014 principal Park Ginder socializes with students. He currently runs Dekalb High School. Bottom right: Students work diligently on their school laptops.